

When Brad Meltzer published his first novel, there was no telling what fate had in store for him. Ten years and several best-selling books later, Meltzer's writing career has never looked brighter with his latest endeavour, *The Book of Fate* topping the New York Times best-seller list.

A Master in his own House



Any writer would be happy with success in writing prose novels, but Meltzer has also contributed his talents to comic books, garnering acclaim for his work at DC Comics on *Green Arrow* and the *Identity Crisis* mini-series. He's currently handling writing duty on a chart-topping comic book, *Justice League of America* at DC, and this September became the first author to have a number-one novel and a number-one comic book on the stands at the same time.

While 2006 has certainly been a banner year for Meltzer, some people might be surprised to learn that he initially set out to become a lawyer rather than a writer.

Meltzer admits that his motivations were misplaced when he was studying at Columbia Law School.

"I think on many levels I was just a coward, for lack of any other better explanation. I grew up in a very normal family and money was an issue for us. I did not want to go through life having to deal with that issue again in terms of worrying every month whether we were going to have any. So instead of playing starving writer, I went to law school."

Obviously, Meltzer had a change of heart, as he explains why he decided to pursue a career as an author.

"In truth, I finally learned to follow my passion. That's the real answer. I like law; I'm not a self-hating lawyer but I really feel like you have to follow your passion in life and my passion is certainly to write."

As one might expect, then, the spheres of politics and law hold a particular fascination in his thriller novels.

"I think that's the world I've learned to understand. My first job was as an intern in government. I remember sitting in that job and I think there are some people who become interns in government and they feel like they own the place and they feel like it's theirs. And I never felt that way. I always felt like an outsider looking in. I never

felt like I was entitled to it, so that was my perspective, and that's the same perspective I bring into all my novels; that same 'outsider looking in,'" Meltzer says.

The worlds of heroes and villains of the superhuman variety are just as appealing to Meltzer, who offers some thoughts on the characters he handles in his other job.

"For me, superheroes are not just an idea; they're an ideal, and I like that ideal. I love being a pessimist, but I wish I were an optimist at times and I think superheroes let me be that," he says. "I love that good versus evil battle. I love believing that friends will have your back if you need their help. Those things make sense to me."

Meltzer points to his comic book projects as having a significant effect on how he approaches his novels.

"I feel like, in a strange way, that comic books—because they demand that you explore character—have really influenced the way I write my novels and trying to get more out of character than just simply trying to get plot out of them," he relates. "It's strange but I really think that comic books have made me a better writer."

Versatility might be one trait that Brad Meltzer possesses, but he's hardly alone in that regard with more writers contributing to different media these days.

"I think on some levels, a little bit of the snobbery has broken down. When I was little, I was the only one in my school that I felt read comics. If I wanted to talk to someone else who read comics, I had to go to the comic store. And now you can just go right online; you'll find hundreds of people like yourself," he explains. "You're not alone anymore and I think in many ways it just makes it easier to find each other."

"I think it used to be harder to contact writers that weren't within your industry, and now the intellectual snobbery and 'us and them' has really broken down," he continues. "People realize just because you write a novel doesn't mean you can't write a comic book."

Meltzer is no different than any other writer, though, in offering his choice for a fellow creator that has had a huge impact on him, and, incidentally, several other creative professionals.

"Without a doubt, Alan Moore. I just think—in any medium—nobody tops him. I tend to like comics as much as I like novels so I don't feel like I need to say, 'Well, I've given you a comic book person so I need to give you a novelist.' I think Alan Moore is the best in all worlds."

Alan Moore certainly has a large and legendary portfolio, which includes *V For Vendetta* that was translated into a film last year, so picking a favourite can be rather daunting.

"Only a fool doesn't say *Watchmen*, but you could just as easily give me the Mogo story from *Green Lantern*. You could just as easily give me *Top Ten League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. Anything else."

Since *Watchmen* was first released in 1986, a lot has changed with the emergence of the digital age, personal computers, and the Internet.



Any aspiring or established writer knows that maintaining a certain presence online—with webpages, message boards, blogs and other tools—has become more or less necessary to help reach prospective audiences.

Of course, nobody has to tell Meltzer any of this; he's been tapping into the potential of the World Wide Web for nearly as long as he's been publishing his work.

"We've had our webpage up for almost ten years now and I'm proud of that. I kind of pride myself on the fact that I've been able to have a very close connection with any of my readers," he says. "To me, that's one of the fun parts of the process."

In today's world of iPods, video-games, DVDs, and hi-def TV, there are those who might wonder if reading and writing have become obsolete but Meltzer's outlook is hardly so gloomy.

"I think this always gets overstated. I was reading an article today that said, 'When they created movies, everyone said it was the death of radio, and when they created television, it was the death of movies, and when they created e-books, it was the end of books, and when they created computers, it's the end of writing,'" he relates. "I think communicating in all these various forms is still communicating and

I'm not one to scream that the sky's falling."

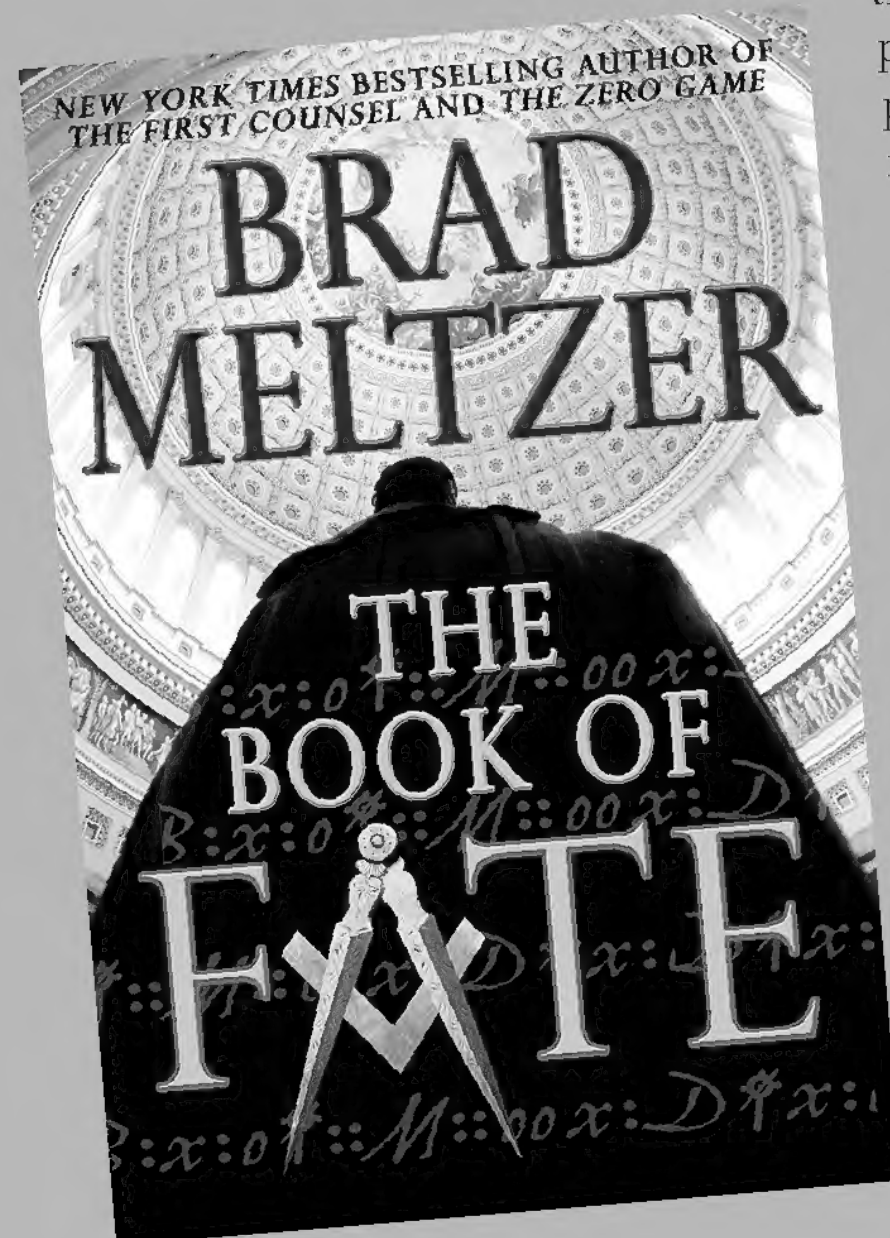
Regardless of the medium, any artist knows that, where their work goes, the critics will follow, but Meltzer takes it all in stride.

"I've had reviews that have called me 'brilliant' and I've had reviews that have called me a 'moron.' That doesn't mean the 'brilliant' ones are right; that doesn't mean the 'moron' ones are right," Meltzer says. "I think you just have to always realize that it's just a subjective opinion. That's what it all is and you can only take it as that. I just feel lucky that people get to read the books; I don't get caught up on, 'Oh my gosh, what are they saying about me today?'"

While dealing with criticism is one part of the writing business, Meltzer also offers some wisdom about the writing process for aspiring authors.

"It's okay to admit that it's hard. I was involved in my third book when someone said that to me and it really made a difference. It really helped because you feel like, 'Someone's paying me to write about imaginary people; I feel so lucky and I don't want to complain or I'll be a real bastard.' And I really appreciated that."

—written by Tyson Durst



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

The Philosopher Kings

With Jon Levine Band
Friday 24 November at 8pm
Starlite Room, 18+
\$27.50 advance at ticketmaster.ca and Megatunes

For all you first-year philosophy majors studying for finals, a back to basics review is essential. Plato, a little known Greek philosopher, proposed the idea of The Philosopher Kings, a funk loving pop-rock group, whose spirited and groove-laden music would aid in the creation of the ideal utopian state. Fast forward two millennia, and The Philosopher Kings hail from Toronto (needless to say, Plato was no Nostradamus).

The Dears

With The Blood Lines
Saturday, 25 November at 8pm
Starlite Room
Tickets \$20 at Tickmaster, Blackbyrd, Megatunes and Listen Records

Montréal's The Dears are like the older, less well-known brother of Broken Social Scene. Years of experience have tightened up their experimental art-rock sound, enabling them to communicate their musical vision without needing—unlike their next of kin—the staff numbers boasted by your local Walmart. They espouse their socially and politically charged voice on their new disc, *Gang of Losers*, particularly on their single "Whites Only Party," which, as the title suggests, discusses the merits of a single annual celebration for the under-represented group of privileged white people. We'll call it Caucasofest.



Rachelle van Zanten

Saturday, 25 November at 8pm
The Powerplant
\$12

When you think of a slide guitarist, a young, hip songstress may be the last thing that would come to mind. But Rachelle van Zanten has never followed conventions. The Painting Daisies' slidester returns to Canada for a solo show after stints in Europe and the US, bringing her bluegrass sounds and mean guitar chops to the U of A campus. A former student herself, van Zanten was creator of Rocker Girl Camp, a *School of Rock*-style summer camp for young females interested in the fine art, thankfully instilling a whole new generation with some skills that will let them do something more than making a simple "Complicated" or "Sk8ter Boi."

Sarah Slean

With Guests
Sunday, 26 November at 7pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre
\$18

In the British feudal system, the title of baron and baroness was established by William the Conqueror as a rank for noblemen who had pledged their allegiance to him. Unfortunately, the title is also the lowest rank in the system, even below those asshole viscounts. It's confusing, then, that Sarah Slean decided to take on the title of "The Baroness," as she's a Gemini-award winning singer-songwriter and pianist who is arguably one of Canada's most talented up-and-coming stars. It probably sounds sexier than Duke. As well, she holds significant land titles due to her stardom and could move up in rank should she wed the Fourth Earl of Huntingdonshire.

JOHN KMECH
A&E super sleuth



From street corner to stage

Chad VanGaalén thanks his early mixtapes and avid busking for the musical respect he's earned

Chad VanGaalén

With These Hands and Lane Arndt
Friday, 24 November at 9pm
Sidetrack Café

EAMON MCGRATH
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Chad VanGaalén plays like a busker, which fits, because he's still one at heart.

It's not everyday you hear a Sub Pop artist talk as though he was sitting on a street corner in his hometown, selling CD-Rs and mixtapes out of a guitar case; but then again, VanGaalén's not your everyday songwriter. On his latest release, *Skelliconnection*, VanGaalén manages to weave the lyrical surrealism of low-fidelity rock god Robert Pollard and the post-punk aesthetic of Sonic Youth with the delicate folk of M Ward or Bob Dylan, sometimes all within the confines of a single song.

"I was starting from nowhere. I grew up with my mom, and we didn't listen to any music at all," VanGaalén admits over the phone from his Calgary home. "I was able to get introduced to Sonic Youth later in life, along with Big Black, Steve Reich and John Cage at the tail end of high school, and that's sort of what triggered a lot of the songwriting."

VanGaalén attests that he did what any punk rocker would do: he grabbed two ghetto blasters, some cassettes and a classical guitar he found in his basement, then started writing songs. Eventually, on the suggestion of a friend, he bought a four-track recorder. VanGaalén's two albums up, and he hasn't even yet turned back from the original lo-fi methodology that has come to help define his sound and style.

"I was really scared to move away from that," VanGaalén says, regarding his loyalty to his Tascam recorder. "I can see everything on the four track. I can see the inputs and the outputs. I don't have to scroll through these menus that don't really exist."

Since the explosion of low-fidelity recordings in the early '90s, songwriters and bands have consistently tried to emulate the aesthetic; for VanGaalén, it happened more naturally.

"I've been touring for six weeks at a time now, so I'm freaking out about that. Just knowing that there's an audience out there, or knowing that I'll have to explain myself or take responsibility for this at some point is weird enough."

CHAD VANGAALÉN

"The lo-fi thing wasn't for any other reason than I couldn't afford a computer at the time, and I had no idea how to use one anyway. I'm always searching for the best sounding thing, and although it is a certain aesthetic, it's not governed by what recording technologies I'm using."

There's an element of a love of process that comes through VanGaalén's recordings as well, and that connection is definitely intentional. It's a fact that a lot of do-it-yourself musicians see themselves as hands-on, metaphorically sculpting sound into grooves or magnetic tapes, and VanGaalén feels no different. The beauty of

lo-fi has always been that there's always something left up to chance: just as much as a song can sound beautiful layered in tape hiss, it can sound equally as harsh on the ears.

This suits VanGaalén just perfectly, because it's the truth that he's no stranger to luck.

"I was busking for awhile, selling CD-Rs and mixtapes," VanGaalén says about what kick-started his musical career. "One of those recordings must have gotten out onto the internet or something, because I got approached by Secretly Canadian, Arts & Crafts and Sub Pop at the same time. There were no demos sent out or anything. I was just freaking out."

When a chance of that magnitude comes from that far out of left field, especially in VanGaalén's case, life sometimes has to catch up with you. VanGaalén, when asked about certain changes that occurred from pre-Sub Pop to now, is surprisingly humble.

"I don't have a day job, so I sleep a lot more," he says jokingly. "But because I don't have a job, I can focus on my visual arts, and my live performance has changed. I've been touring for six weeks at a time now, so I'm freaking out about that. Just knowing that there's an audience out there, or knowing that I'll have to explain myself or take responsibility for this at some point is weird enough."

Despite how modest he is, VanGaalén remains perhaps the closest thing to a stereotype definition of an artist that Alberta has: committed, focused and determined to push forward.

"Now, when I'm home I'm just sort of spending time in the studio that's in my basement," VanGaalén says. "The next [album's] going to be good, so I'm back to where I was, and I'm having more fun than I've ever had with music."

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november featured STUDENT GROUP

UofA Fencing Club

Contact: Tara Stieglitz

E-mail: fencing@ualberta.ca

www.campusrec.ualberta.ca/fencing.cfm

Year Established: before 1960

Membership: 80



Purpose of the Group:

Our mandate is to give students and members of the community an opportunity to learn fencing and even to compete in the sport. The fencing club is not just a way to keep fit while at school it is also a social club where people come to meet friends that share their interest in the sport.

The fencing club has a long and fascinating history. We are one of the oldest athletic clubs on campus. We annually host the Wetterberg Open tournament, which is named after Francis Wetterberg, an inductee into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, who was involved in starting the Albertan fencing community and was also a one-time coach of the club.

We recently hosted the Wetterberg Open, a provincial circuit fencing tournament. Not only does the tournament give our experienced fencers a chance to compete but it also provides an opportunity for those new to the sport to be spectators. We also hold some non-fencing social events such as going to movies. These enable our members to get to know each other and it gives our club a more social atmosphere.

The UofA Fencing Club actively helps university students stay physically fit while meeting new people and having fun. We give our members an opportunity to try a unique sport and even to compete in it if they wish.

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Tokyo Police fight sci-fi crime

Tokyo Police Club

With The Grates and This Civil

Twilight

Friday, 24 November at 8pm

The Powerplant

LIZ DURDEN

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Tokyo Police Club want you to know that they aren't trying to send a political message, make a social commentary or send a warning for future generations; their songs are purely fictional.

With a grungy—yet catchy—sound, Tokyo Police Club pair upbeat, danceable hooks with stories of robot overlords to create a likeable if not somewhat confusing set of seven songs on their EP, *A Lesson in Crime*.

Listeners may be left wondering if they should shake it or fear for the future of humanity. Lyrics like “See the ruins of the old world below / That’s what our ancestors left us,” and “I have a microchip implanted in my heart / So if I try to escape the robots will blow me apart,” may seem bleak in their outlook, but as keyboardist and vocalist Graham Wright explains, they’re just a bunch of cheerful guys

trying to make appealing songs.

“It’s more interesting to write songs about robots taking over the world, and the human resistance, than it is to write about computers that make it easier for you to make a cup of coffee in the morning, which I think it probably a lot closer to the actual case,” Wright says.

Contrary to many bands that write about their worldviews or have political intentions in their lyrics, Wright claims that Tokyo Police Club isn’t one of those groups.

“The songs are just fictional—“Citizens of Tomorrow” especially; it’s a science fiction song, it comes from a bunch of guys who love the *Star Wars* movies and are basically big nerds,” Wright laughs. “And you know, a lot of what is in science fiction is bleak. But the songs on the EP are very much fictional.”

While Wright hesitates to place his band in any sort of category, he feels that they are a part of the second wave of new bands in the Canadian music scene coming out of musical hot spots such as Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver.

“There’s the Toronto scene with

Broken Social Scene and the Arts and Crafts sort of crew, and then there’s the Montréal scene with bands like Wolf Parade and Arcade Fire,” Wright explains. “I think there’s a new batch [of artists] coming out of both those places, and I guess we would be part of that category. I guess we get more attention as a result of from being from a city [Newmarket, ON] that’s been turning out excellent bands over the past couple years; it certainly doesn’t hurt.”

Tokyo Police Club certainly are getting recognition as a new band, and were recently nominated for two Plug [Independent Music] awards, one for Best New Artist, the other for Song of the Year for “Nature of the Experiment.” Plug awards are nominated by an advisory board and then voted on by fans and a voting college, which makes it even more exciting to be nominated. But Wright is cautious not to put too much stock in awards.

“It’s validating when people who are extensively educated about that kind of thing approve of what you’re doing, but at the same time you can’t get too caught up in that or it will just tear you apart,” Wright says.

Ready to sell over the counter

Clerks 2

Directed by Kevin Smith

Starring Brian O’Halloran, Jeff

Anderson, Rosario Dawson, Jason

Mewes and Kevin Smith

Out on DVD Tuesday, 28 November

MICHAEL LAROCQUE

CUP Arts Bureau Chief

The Hollywood sequel has a long and rich tradition. *The Godfather III*, *2 Fast 2 Furious*, *Basic Instinct 2*. Yes, revisiting films by adding a numeral after the title has torrid past of creating less than stellar follow-ups aimed at cashing in on the success of the film’s predecessor. It’s a good thing, then, that Kevin Smith didn’t care about the critics when preparing to revisit Dante, Randal and the now-cult-favourites Jay and Silent Bob in *Clerks 2*.

Preparing for the release of his latest film on DVD this coming Tuesday, indie-icon Kevin Smith took time to discuss his decision to check back in with the gang from the Quick Stop, why DVDs trump the theatre and what’s to come for some of the ’90s most memorable characters.

“There was always the pink elephant in the room of the ‘classic *Clerks*,’” remarks Smith about the

shooting of the sequel. “It was weird, because with the first movie we didn’t set out to make a cult classic or the ‘seminal indie film of the ’90s.’ I read that about the flick so much, and it’s great and it’s flattering and it’s wonderful, but at the same time, it’s not what we set out to do in the beginning.

“We just set out to make one flick and people applied a bunch of labels to it, and if I bought into those labels I would have been a hell of a lot more trepidatious about going into *Clerks 2*. You can’t believe the overwhelmingly good stuff unless you believe the overwhelmingly bad stuff, and usually the truth lies somewhere between the two.”

The film, much to the relief of anxious fans, turned out to be a generally well-hailed continuation—perhaps not matching the same charm as its forerunner, but nonetheless doing justice to a film that has become a classic. The theatrical release of *Clerks 2*, however, didn’t conclude Smith’s time behind the director’s chair. The way he tells it, the theatrical release of the sequel was merely a warm-up to the best part of modern filmmaking: assembling the DVD extras.

“Fuck making films, I like making

DVDs,” laughs Smith. “I think, generally, when I’m in the midst of making a flick, I’m thinking about making the DVD anyways. But in order for people to treat your DVD seriously, you have to go the theatrical route first. Like, when you present the flick in the theatres, you show them the movie and that’s that, on the DVD you get to draw back the curtain and show them how it all happened.”

While another *Clerks* installment could be in the works in another twelve years, Smith admits any further stories would be focusing on Dante and Randal, separate from their ever-loitering counterparts. Indeed, *Clerks 2* might be one of the last times Jay and Silent Bob hit the big screen.

“In terms of me and Jason Mewes playing Jay and Silent Bob, we’re getting a little old,” comments Smith. “I mean, I’m 36. Could you imagine me playing Silent Bob at 40? It wouldn’t be funny as much as it’d be sad. We got away with doing it six times in flicks without people being like, ‘Fuck, it’s tired dude. Take off the backwards baseball cap.’ Rather than overstay the welcome, restoring them to their place in front of the Quick Stop at the end of *Clerks 2* seems like a nice way to go out with them.”

A product of industrialization

Jakalope

With The Hollow
Tuesday, 28 November at 7pm
The Powerplant

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

How does a young, small-town Canadian singer-songwriter jump-start her career to make it big in the mainstream? For Airdrie's Katie Biever, it meant completely re-envisioning her art while staying true to her style, spanning across musical genres and obtaining a little bit of help from industrial recording legends Dave Ogilvie and Trent Reznor.

Katie B, as she's more commonly known, is the pop diva headlining Canada's own industrial rock project, Jakalope. Katie's the musical offspring of Ogilvie, former front man of Vancouver's Skinny Puppy, and was approached by him while working as a secretary in the Warehouse Studio. He shared with her his vision of an experimental new sound and asked if she'd be interested in covering vocals.

"It just kind of happened," Biever says over the phone. "I was working in the Warehouse, and Dave [Ogilvie] told me about this idea that he had, and asked if I wanted to sing for him. Then things got going, and all these people got involved, and the project has really taken off."

Jakalope brought to the table a shocking hybrid of industrial and pop sounds, reminiscent of the strange specimens pictured within their videos and album art. The industrial genre, commonly known for its gritty, techno-fused instrumentals and heavily distorted vocal work, was now merged with the



top-40 sopranos of Biever's singing and songwriting.

Now two years since the release of their debut album, and the singles from their recently released follow-up, *Born 4*, plastering the charts, Biever has found herself at home with her new bandmates, far from the realm of her initial career path.

"I think they wanted me because Dave wanted to go somewhere different, and try something new," Biever says.

Ogilvie, of underground fame from the now-defunct Skinny Puppy, was a household name among industrial listeners, his band perhaps one of the most influential in the genre. Jakalope offers a refreshing reinterpretation of an established sound in an already-experimental art.

In response to critics of her work, Biever points to the essentials of what makes Jakalope what it is.

"I don't try to claim that I've listened to industrial all my life, and that I know all about it, because I didn't," she says.

"This kind of thing is entirely new to me, and I think that's why it works. I'm a fresh face without any notions about where the band *should* be going, and that's the kind of thing that makes us work."

Jakalope's roster has included such names as Phil Caivano of Monster Magnet, former KMFDM and current REM percussionist Bill Rieflin, and co-producer Trent "NIN" Reznor.

Starting off here in Edmonton at the Powerplant on 28 November, Jakalope will play for a fan base as diverse as Biever's glam-goth wardrobe, all while promoting the new album and exposing a whole new breed of fans to a fusion-bred fury of sound.

"If people don't like what we're doing, then that's fine, but I think they need to realize that so many people involved in this project like Dave and Trent are the people they've listened to their whole lives," Biever says. "If [these important musicians are] giving Jakalope that kind of attention, then the fans should at least give us a chance."



The Yule Ball is just around the corner, so if you're looking to ask that special someone to the Christmas dance, come to a Gateway A&E meeting (Thursdays at 5pm in 3-04 SUB). You should hurry, though; there are only two more meetings before the end of this publishing term! Plus, you don't want some Cedric Diggory beating you to it and stealing your Cho Chang, now, do you?

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Mo' albums, mo' problems



PAUL
BLINOV

It's like there's an unwritten rule between indie artists and postsecondary students that states how musicians provide the whimsical, unhappy or ass-kicking soundtracks to our evolving lives in exchange for a paltry lump sum. However, every once in a while, a band comes along and stirs the pot with a double album, three albums in a year, or three albums in a year including a double album (I'm looking at you, Ryan Adams). While this may seem ideal—hey, more music!—multiple releases in a year fails in practicality. Artists are setting both themselves, and us students, up for a fall.

Abnormal amounts of releases have been happening all too often lately. An illustrative example would be Bishop Allen, a band from Brooklyn, New York. They're a young band, and they have a knack for writing some catchy tunes. However, they're apparently on a quest to bankrupt the students of the world by putting out one four-song EP a month for the entire year.

It's kind of a cool concept on the surface, but look closer: your typical album costs about \$20, give or take a few loonies. Twelve EPs at about five dollars a pop tallies up to \$60 for the whole deal. Could all this music be worth \$60? Maybe, but can a relatively untested indie band—Bishop Allen had just one album before embarking on this EP-a-month adventure—really give us 48 quality songs in a year? Can any established artist do that in such a rigid time constraint? Bishop Allen could have just plucked twelve or so of the best tracks they have and given us an amazing album at the end of the year. Instead, they decided to lighten our wallets and burden our ears with filler.

A more recognizable figure guilty of the same thing as Bishop Allen is Sufjan Stevens. He's currently working his 50 States project, writing an

album about every state in America. These aren't four songs to a state, either. His last *Come on, Feel the Illinoise!* sprawled more than 20 tracks long. I may be in Arts, but do the math yourself: that's about a thousand songs. Again, can anyone give us that much music without it containing unhealthy amounts of filler?

But that's not all for Sufjan. He isn't just adhering to the 50 States project. In addition to an outtakes album for *Illinoise!*, he's also released one non-50 states album, *Seven Swans*, two albums before the project started, and now a set of Christmas EPs, just in time for the holiday season. Christmas EPs? They're likely to collect dust for a good eleven months of the year.

At this rate, Sufjan could actually live a long life and still die before he finishes the 50 States project, assuming people are still listening then and he doesn't burn out before Hawaii and Alaska get their respective turns.

And to clarify, ol' Sufjan's only written albums for two states so far, one for Illinois and one for Michigan. In total, he has seven releases to his name, and 48 to go. At this rate, Sufjan could actually live a long life and still die before he finishes the 50 States project, assuming people are still listening then and he doesn't burn out before Hawaii and Alaska get their respective turns. There's a difference between being prolific, and grabbing at my wallet like a zombie or telemarketer, and Sufjan's starting to cross over to the undead side of things.

Really, if these artists just took a bit more time between releases to cut out the filler, they'd be releasing consistent, quality music, and with enough time in between for us to scrape some money together and actually buy the damn release.

Painting honest *Landscapes*

Manufactured Landscapes

Directed by Jennifer Baichwal
Based on the photography of Edward Burtynsky
Opens 24 November
Garneau Theatre

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Yellow is typically the runt in a box of crayons, always getting picked last in the game of favourite colours, but in Jennifer Baichwal's visually stunning documentary *Manufactured Landscapes*, the colour also appears in such an aesthetically pleasing way that you might just change your preference.

The film follows Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky to China, and later to Bangladesh, as he photographs the effects of industry and manufacturing on nature. The film, which won Best Canadian Feature at the 2006 Toronto Film Festival, is a paradox: it's a beautifully filmed piece that depicts Burtynsky's gorgeous art, but it also mixes in all that is *not* beautiful—pollution, garbage, scrap metal and environmental toxins.

Burtynsky visits coal mines, shipyards, scrap heaps and recycling yards. In Bangladesh, young men wade barefoot in oil waste. In another scene, a young Chinese child eats a bowl of food while a mound of scrap towers in the background. The toxic smells of a recycling heap practically float from the screen. A rusty orange stream winds through dry dirt. Metal scraps clang loudly when discarded.

Burtynsky's photographs, and the entire movie, shock and educate without preaching. The film depicts the problem without laying blame, but also without offering solutions. Burtynsky does, however, remark that as we destroy nature, we destroy ourselves.

Along those lines, we see how the Chinese workforce has transformed in response to urban migration. The film focuses on the manufacturing industry, the powerhouse behind the Chinese economy. Yellow first appears on each employee's uniform. Then there's a brilliant sea of yellow as many employees gather for a photograph on an endless stretch of road bordered by yellow buildings. A yellow line divides the road. This scene mesmerizes the eye, yet each individual quickly loses meaning. And this means a lot.

Baichwal devotes a lot of time depicting the working conditions in the Chinese manufacturing industry. Nothing more than cogs in the industrial machine, employees complete tedious, mindless, repetitive tasks. The dehumanizing conditions of the manufacturing industry are staggering.

However, the workers in this film don't plot any kind of Marxist revolution. Indeed, most of the workers speak very matter-of-factly about their jobs. One man says that he does his job "for his country." Perhaps these workers aren't alienated, but actually deceived, by the system. Perhaps they think they have no other options. The film allows viewers to draw their own conclusions. This is one beautiful feature of *Manufactured Landscapes*.

In addition to depicting workers' disconnect from their product, the movie also shows how we as consumers are disconnected from the products that we buy. The film follows the entire life cycle of a product, including material extraction, creation, consumption, and finally, waste. Each step is disconnected from the others, which makes a powerful statement.

This is a compelling documentary that speaks in a non-didactic tone, allowing the message to remain subtle. Baichwal doesn't present the issues in terms of right or wrong; she simply presents new ways of seeing the problems.



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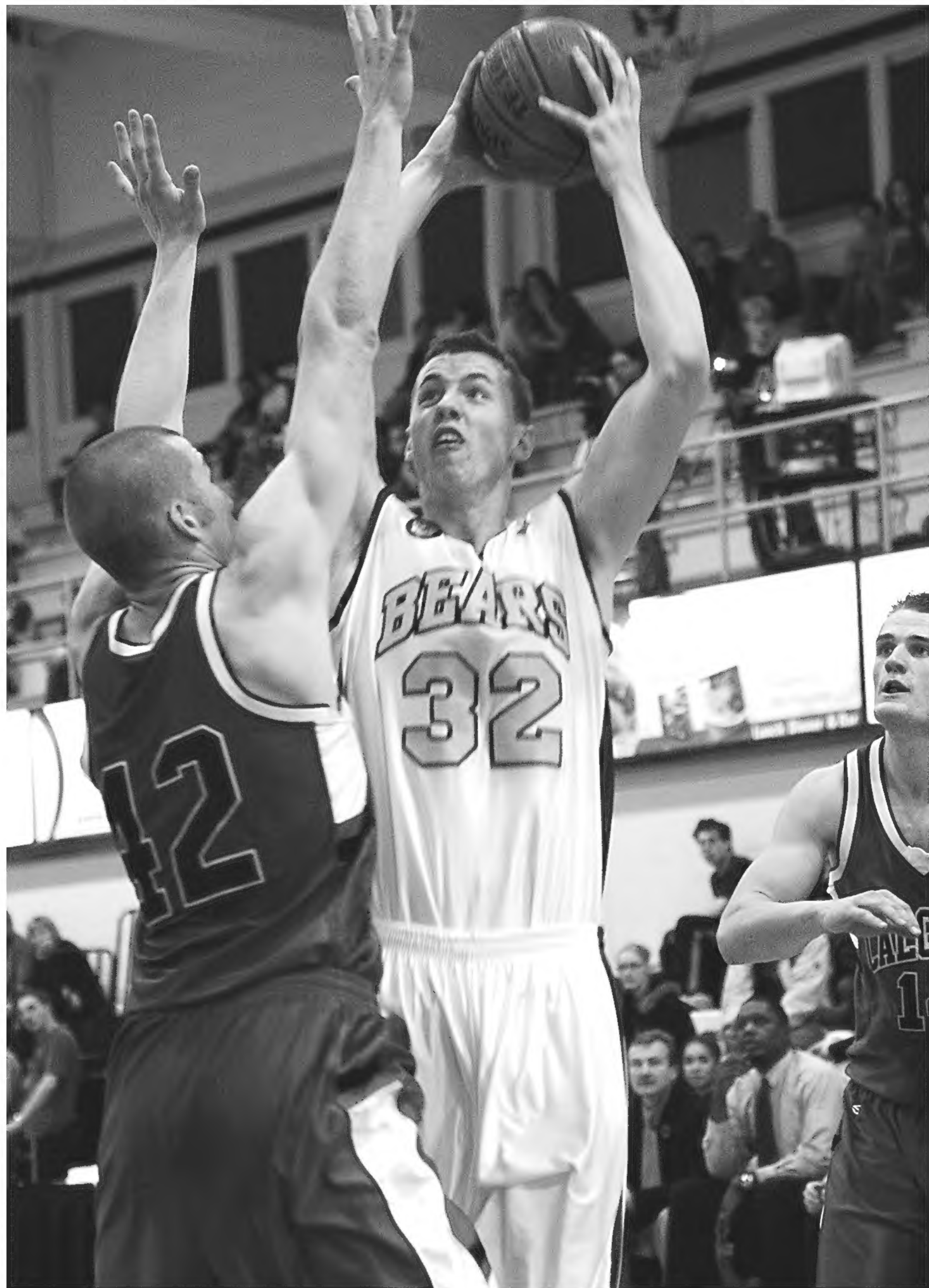
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FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

TAKING IT TO THE HOLE Kara Stevens (6) and her teammates will be in tough versus Calgary.



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

REPEAT Scott Gordon (32) and the Bears will be looking to continue their success against the Dinos.

Streaking basketball squads set to host Dinos

Pandas look to continue winning ways against provincial rivals

PAUL OWEN
Sports Editor

After dismantling Brandon 89–24 last weekend, the fifth-ranked Pandas basketball squad will face a more evenly matched foe when they host the Calgary Dinos, a team that Alberta interim head coach Scott Edwards believes resembles his own in many ways.

“We play similar styles in that we both like to press a lot, trap around the floor, and get out and run,” Edwards said.

The Dinos will enter the Main Gym in an unfamiliar place this weekend: third in the Canada West Mountain Division. The past few seasons saw the Dinos (3–3) come to Edmonton in a battle for top spot while the Pandas were hoping to make the standings a little tighter with a pair of wins. Now Alberta (5–1) will be looking to stay with or overtake the Saskatchewan Huskies (5–1) for first place.

Still, while their early season positioning has flipped, the Dinos high-paced game may cause the Pandas some trouble.

“They’re an up-tempo team; they play a five-out offence and really like to penetrate. They like to full-court pressure and half-court trap, so there’s a lot of thinking involved this weekend,” Edwards said. “[We need to be better at] defending the three-point shot, for sure, and defending penetration; we’ve had difficult time the last few weeks at defending penetration, so if we shore that up, we should be fine.”

In response, Alberta will need to bring the same defensive intensity that has seen them sport the third-best defence in Canada West this season.

“Our overall commitment to team defence has been great. We have our lapses, as every team does, but most nights and most minutes on

the floor, we really commit to our team defensive philosophy, and that’s been fun to watch,” Edwards noted. “We’re a small team, so we have to commit to rebounding, and the only games we’ve lost this year [including exhibition play] are the three games we’ve been out-rebounded. When we rebound, we play well.”

To counter the defensive pressure from the quick Calgary guards, the Pandas will look to their post depth. Forwards Trish Ariss, Kristin Jarock, Natalie Kiernan and Michelle Anderson have all led the team in scoring at one point this season, and post Meghan Knowles worked herself into the starting lineup in the win over Brandon after coming in as a reserve to start the season.

“We need to use our strength inside. Our play will probably even out, but the strength of our team versus them is our inside play with Trish and [Kristin],” Edwards explained. “Meghan Knowles has been a tremendous boost for our team off the bench. She’s a hardworking kid, and she’s a tough kid inside. Even though she’s undersized in the post, she works really hard and probably outworks everyone she plays.”

Despite their depth, Edwards is concerned over the team’s lack of a go-to scorer. Alberta has been led in scoring by five different players through six games. Only Ariss has topped the score sheet twice.

“Having a scoring-by-committee can be tough on a team because you don’t know who it’s going to be every night, so we need to see some more consistent effort from our stars in terms of scoring more and consistently throughout games,” Edwards admitted. “I’d like to see Michelle Smith and Jarock score a little more and take some pressure off some kids.”

The games tipoff at 6pm on Friday and Saturday in the Main Gym.

Bears hope to end three-game losing skid against southern foes

NICK FROST
Sports Staff

The Golden Bears basketball team finds themselves back at .500 and mired in a three-game losing slump after dropping this past weekend’s action against both Regina and Brandon. The team is looking to regroup against a squad with an identical 3–3 record, in a homestand against the University of Calgary Dinos this weekend.

Alberta head coach Don Horwood is relieved to be home, and attributes spending so much time as the visitor as one of the reasons for their recent cold streak.

“One of our biggest problems is playing on the road—we’re playing like the Oilers on the road,” Horwood said. “Winning away from our building—especially in our division, right now, with the teams so even—is very hard. Overall, though, I’m not unhappy with our position. The teams that we’re tied with right now have played four home games, and we’ve only played two.”

However, the problems of playing on the road pale in comparison to the issues of consistency and effort for the Bears—especially when it comes to playing both sides of the floor. While offensive production has been decent—the Bears have a field-goal percentage hovering around the .500 mark in their three losses—the same cannot be said for team defence.

“There’s definitely not a consistent effort coming from some of our key players—and I’m talking about effort on both ends,” Horwood admitted. “It’s one thing to be able to score; but you have to be able to stop people from scoring as well. Some of our players will score very few points one night, and then score 20 the next night—we just can’t afford to have that kind of

inconsistency.”

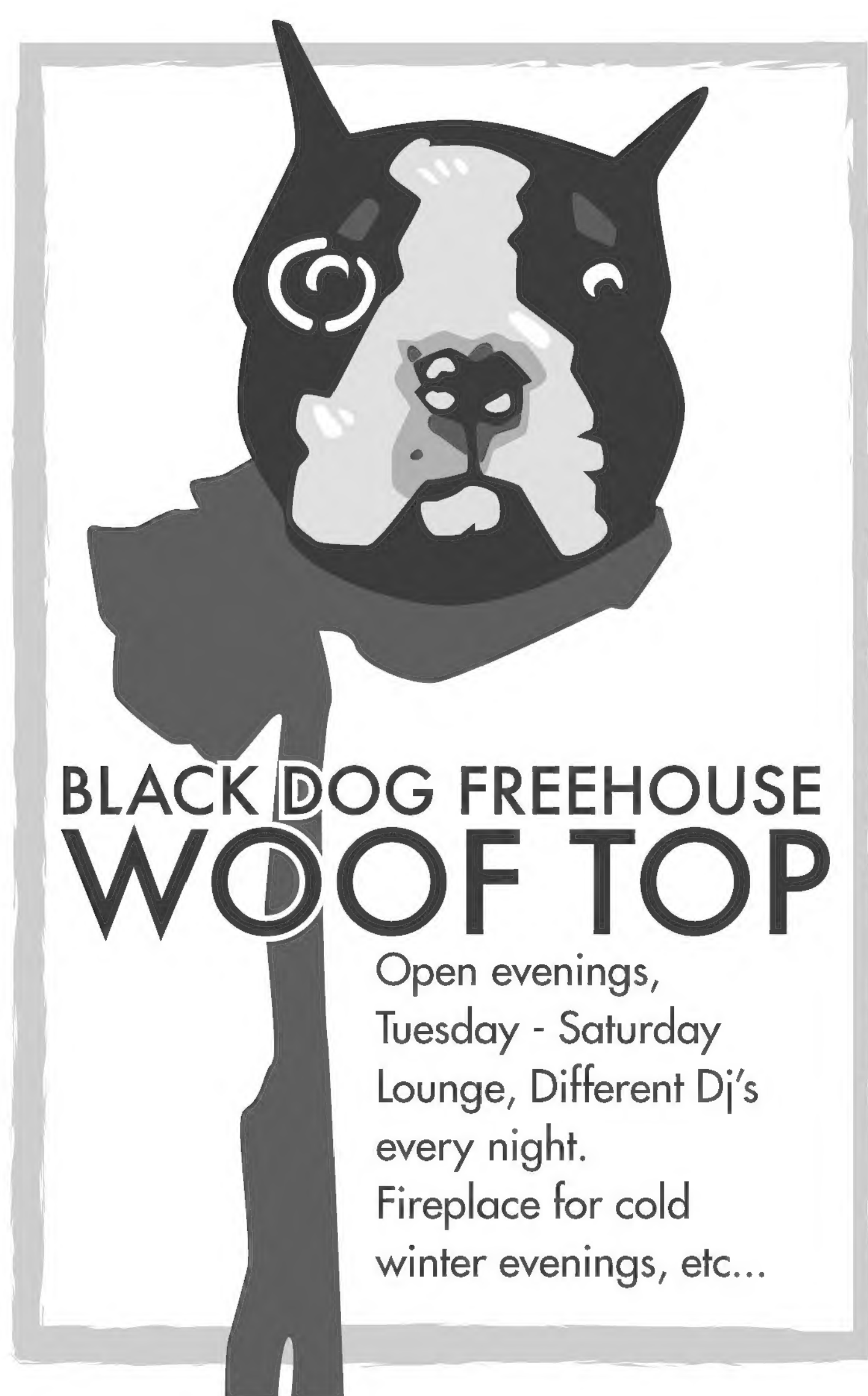
Part of their inconsistency on the court can, according to Horwood, be attributed to a lack of chemistry. The Bears have five new faces earning playing time this year, and only post Scott Gordon remains from last season’s starting lineup. Additionally, the Bears have yet to find an adequate replacement for the injured Tyson Jones, a starter last season who broke his foot before the season began and has yet to play a game this year.

“We have a three-guard spot that we’ve tried with a few guys—Andrew Parker, Neb Aleksic, Jeff Lander, Jamal Bara—but it hasn’t seen consistent performances from anyone yet to say, ‘That’s the guy we have to go with all the time,’” Horwood said, also noting that Jones’ imminent return—his cast has been removed—won’t necessarily solve this problem straight away, as he’s bound to be rusty.

Alberta will face a Calgary team that, prior to losing Saturday against Lethbridge, had won three in a row. The Dinos boast three post players who will be tough for the Bears to handle: Robbie Sihota, Joe Schow and Ross Bekkering. Also, point guard Josh Feist is leading the team in scoring and Canada West in assists, with 7.83 per game.

“Calgary is a good team, and there’s not a lot of difference between us,” Horwood said. “Feist is very quick and creates a lot of opportunities, so we’re going to have to negate him somewhat. I think our guards can match up very well with theirs, I think our post matches up well with theirs; but it all boils down to what I said earlier: our guys have to come to play.”

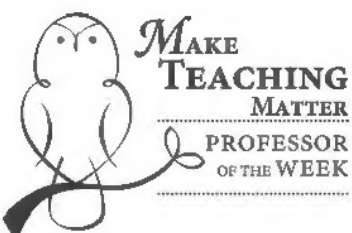
The provincial rivals will tipoff in the Main Gym, both Friday and Saturday, starting at 8pm.



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Excellent teaching is the foundation of an outstanding undergraduate education, and the university community needs to begin to value everyday achievements in undergraduate teaching.

The Students' Union is looking to recognize professors who demonstrate sincere enthusiasm for teaching undergraduates, innovative methods of engaging students in the learning process and a willingness to go beyond what is normally expected of a professor.

Thank you to those who submitted nominations for this term. The next Professor of the Week will be announced on Jan 25, 2007. You can continue to pick up and submit nominations from any Faculty Association office or InfoLink desk, or at the SU Executive Office front desk. Nominations can also be emailed to the Associate VP-Academic Tasneem Karbani at avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

Big expectations of Rawlick

Bears swim team has high hopes for first-year Junior National teamer

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Staff

Doug Rawlick may be in his first year as a Golden Bear, but the distance swimmer is no newcomer to the sport. With Rawlick's help, his coach believes that the University of Alberta could climb into the national top ten this year.

Though the U of A season is just getting under way, Rawlick already has a great deal of competition experience under his belt. He's a member of the Canadian Junior National swim team, and competed with them last year at the Australia Youth Olympic Festival.

Rawlick described qualifying for the event as the high point so far in his swimming career. In Australia, he earned a silver medal in his preferred event, the 1500m freestyle. He's also been named to the 2007 Junior Pan Pacific Championships team that will compete in New Zealand this January, and will be travelling to Maui in December to compete in open-water distance swimming.

U of A head coach Bill Humby has high expectations for Rawlick this CIS season as well, explaining that he's already a valuable member of the team.

"Doug's strength may just be his ability to work really hard," Humby says. "In university distance swimming, there aren't that many people prepared to do the work that Doug's prepared to do. He could have a very successful career as a university swimmer because he is ready to work hard."

"We're lucky that we've got five or six guys that I'm able to group with him in training, and he's the leader by time and by effort."

**BILL HUMBY,
BEARS SWIMMING HEAD COACH**

His work ethic and positive attitude spreads to his teammates as well.

"We're lucky that we've got five or six guys that I'm able to group with him in training, and he's the leader by time and by effort. It's really helped pull those other guys along," Humby says. "They're motivated to work hard, and I think he's been the catalyst for that."

Rawlick is enjoying the change to CIS competition from club-level swimming. Before university, he trained with Edmonton's Olympian Swim Club. He didn't find the transition difficult, and so far is enjoying the different competition format.

"I'm used to swimming with a lot of younger kids, so this is cool for me. In swimming with an older group, there's been more competition," Rawlick notes. "I knew a lot of swimmers before, because my old club had a partnership with the U of A. It was easy to get to know everyone."

"I like the dual-meet thing, it's a one day swim meet. We used to have competitions that were all weekend, and I never liked that. This is more fast-paced."

Humby has been working with Rawlick to build his speed, and thinks that he will be able to get on the podium at Nationals this year.

"His best time last year would have been right around the medals, and I think he can improve on that. He's started lifting more weights this year, and we've done more speed work in the pool," Humby says. "He can be very competitive this year at the Championships."

Not all sports cities were created equal

PAUL
OWEN



Group
Commentary

Consider me as someone who is against equality. This isn't to say that women are better than men or that people should be judged according to their skin colour. But it's time to face facts that Calgary and Edmonton aren't equals as sports cities. Take, for example, the five Stanley Cup banners that hang from the rafters in Rexall, or the 13 Grey Cups the Eskos have hoisted (compared to a mere one and five for the Flames and Stamps respectively). Sports are all about determining who is better, and it's ridiculous for anyone to expect Calgary and Edmonton to matchup evenly in every area.

That's why it's so ridiculous that Dan Barnes suggested in the 21 November edition of the *Edmonton Journal* that, instead of spending more money on Calgarian winter sports infrastructure by having the provincial government kick in \$69 million for the development of a Canadian Centre of Sport Excellence, the Tories should throw some money Edmonton's way for a Canadian Sport Centre here.

Now, I'm all for developing sport in Edmonton, but Barnes' assertion that, "This is a crisis in the making unless Edmonton answers with a top-notch facility of its own," is absolutely absurd. The Ferbey curling foursome is hardly likely to switch allegiances, as Barnes suggests, simply because there is a new curling rink in Cowtown. They can curl anywhere, and moving to Calgary would only weaken the team: they'd have less competition against their archrivals and the fellow Edmonton rink of Kevin Martin.

Moreover, Barnes argues that the "snowbound" international-calibre athletes shouldn't have to live

in Calgary to get top training. First off, they don't. Top alpine skiers and snowboarders live in the Rockies—Jasper, Banff or, like alpine skier Thomas Grandi, Canmore, if they don't move to Québec, like Jennifer Heil, or Whistler, or Fernie—while top Nordic skiers train in Camrose, a scant hour from Edmonton.

Additionally, separating the powers between Calgary and Edmonton makes little sense. With infrastructure put in place for the 1988 Olympics, most of the top coaches in Canada relocated there in order to have access to those facilities. Moving half of them to Edmonton so that the two cities can be sporting equals probably wouldn't even work. And while more spending in Edmonton would be beneficial for those who live here, it wouldn't be for the entire country. The centralization of winter sporting excellence to Calgary since the '88 Olympics has provided undeniable results: since the establishment of the Canada Olympic Park in the wake of the 1988 Games, the Canadian medal haul has near quintupled, going from five in Calgary to 24 in Torino this February. There's no reason to mess with this formula.

Even if Edmonton did have state-of-the-art training facilities, is that going to make local bobsledder Pierre Leuders stay here when he doesn't have a bobsled track to actually practice his sport on? Of course it isn't. Nor are local speedskaters going to be able to resist the call of the Calgary Olympic Oval, which boasts the fastest ice in the world and has served as training centre for Catriona Le May Doan, Jeremy Wotherspoon and Cindy Klassen. And with the facilities being built in Vancouver in preparation for 2010, Edmonton will only be further down the pecking order for winter sport funding.

Besides, it's not like we're devoid of any sort of impressive international sporting credentials as well. Commonwealth Stadium's natural grass field makes it an ideal home

for international soccer, something Calgary rarely gets to experience. Commonwealth also allowed Edmonton to host the 2001 Track and Field World Championships. Those games, in turn, brought about the creation of Foote Field and the Canadian Athletics Coaching Centre. The CACC brought Worlds bronze medalist Tyler Christopher from Chilliwack to Edmonton and current U of A track star Carline Muir from Toronto.

It's the even-spending thinking that Barnes proposes that will lead to problems when the Oilers try to get out of Rexall and into a new arena—a subject broached last week in the *Journal*. It won't matter that Rexall's tiny size actually inhibits the team's ability to be profitable because, if Edmonton's getting a new rink, Calgary better damn sure be getting one too. There's only so much money to go around, so let Calgary have their winter sporting excellence. It'll be gone in three-and-a-half years anyways when Vancouver steals their thunder. Until then, maybe it'll help the Cowtowners get over having fewer Cups than a bra.

THE GYM BAG

After winning the Grey Cup this weekend, the BC Lions promptly managed to break the thing in two, carrying on the time-honoured tradition of drunken vandalism by a championship team in many a pro sports league. Nothing says "classy winner" like getting trashed and smashing up the second-most venerable big grey mug in the country—way to go, guys.

ADAM GAUMONT

The Gym Bag is a highly irregular feature that has been blatantly stolen from the Opinion section.



ANDREW RURAK

UNMASKED Holly Tartleton (above) and Danielle Bles have given the Pandas a top pair between the pipes.

Goalies give Pandas winning hand

Three queens up front and a pair of aces in the hole give Alberta a full house

TREVOR PHILLIPS
Sports Writer

With the oodles of offence the puck Pandas have produced this year, it's no surprise a majority of the spotlight has gone to their high scoring front three. But, from the shadows of the Pandas' goal, another set of talented ladies has emerged this year—rookie Dana Vinge, and veterans Danielle Bles and Holly Tarleton.

Together the trio has made Alberta the top team in goals against average (1.02), save percentage (.929) and second in the conference in shutouts (three). On top of that, the Alberta puck stoppers have done so while facing the least amount of rubber per game, which has made it difficult to maintain focus this season.

"It has been a constant work in progress, focus is always the focus," Tarleton explained. "If you take it just a minute at a time and try not to think of the game as a whole that seems to help the most."

Having three capable goalies on the roster has given head coach Howie

Draper a real advantage—one he thinks helps to spark the offence.

"When you have good goaltenders, the players in front of them are more willing and able to take risks that are necessary to be successful," he said. "I think that no matter who goes in net, that if something doesn't go our way and a chance is created going the other way we are confident they're going to stop it."

For the most part, Draper has rotated Bles and Tarleton in the two-game weekend format, giving each tender equal playing time so far. But both Bles and Tarleton think that pushing for the number one position has been a rewarding experience and helped their relationship rather than weakened it.

"We get along great," Bles confirmed confidently. "I mean it's a battle on the ice because we all want to play, but we are great off of it."

"Yeah, our relationship has been really good," Tarleton echoed. "We work together on the ice and go to class together—it's actually been really good. I like having two good goaltenders around to push me in

practice."

Not even the ongoing pursuit for statistical bragging rights has stepped in the way of their friendship.

"To tell you the truth [stats] don't even matter," said Tarleton, who leads the two in goals against average. save percentage and shutouts. "The outcome of the game is more important."

"Stats are more about bounces than performance," agreed Bles, who has more victories. "So, they aren't that important."

With the defensive-minded and suddenly hot UBC Thunderbirds making a stop at Clare Drake Arena, the Pandas net minders are probably not going to see very many shots again this weekend. On 13 and 14 October, Tarleton and Vinge needed to make only 20 saves combined to earn 6-0 and 6-1 victories respectively, but Tarleton isn't taking this scrappy team lightly.

"UBC is a team that builds up momentum by keeping the game close, so we want to focus on penetrating their defence and maintaining our focus on the backend," she said.

SPORTS SHORTS

Written by Paul Owen

Pandas Volleyball

In a scheduling quirk, the Pandas volleyball squad (6-0) will start their weekend series against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies (2-6) on Thursday night at 6:15pm and go Friday as well at 6:15pm, for a very early finish on their weekend road trip. Alberta will be looking to continue their undefeated season, while Saskatchewan will be hoping to get back in the playoff hunt coming off a sweep at the hands of UBC.

Bears Volleyball

With only one set loss in their 6-0 season, the Bears have been quite dominant once again this year. They will play the same unusual schedule that the women play, also in Saskatoon against the Huskies (4-4). It will be the last time the Bears see action before the Christmas break, when they will embark on a trip to Tampa Bay for the

CI South Invitational. The nicest thing about being a varsity athlete has to be the winter trips to warmer climates. It's almost enough to make me wish Steve Smith had succeeded in taking away their Legacy Fund three years ago. Their two games against the Huskies go Thursday and Friday at 8pm.

Bears Hockey

Coming off a weekend that saw them swept out of Saskatoon for the first time since 1990, the Bears (8-2-2) will be heading to the lower mainland for a pair of games against the UBC Thunderbirds (6-5-1) this weekend. The last time these teams met on 21/22 October resulted in an overtime loss for the Bears that snapped an impressively long winning streak against the T-Birds. The games will go at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday in the Burnaby Winter Club as UBC's hockey teams continue their travelling show while their arena is renovated for the coming Olympics.

Football

The CIS Championship, the PotashCorp Vanier Cup, will go this Saturday at the University of Saskatchewan, explaining

why the volleyball teams are playing there on Thursday instead of Saturday. The Laval Rouge et Or will take on the host Huskies in search of their fourth title in eight years, while Saskatchewan will be hoping not to lose their fourth Vanier Cup in the same time span. The two met in an epically sloppy match in the 2004 Vanier Cup in Hamilton, with Laval prevailing 7-1.

Track and Field

The U of A's track team will kick off the season by participating in the Last Chance Meet this weekend. It goes at 12pm on Sunday in the Butterdome and is the last meet for the kids in their particular age groupings, but doubles as the first meet of the year for senior and university athletes.

Shorts

Since Andrew Renfree couldn't understand that I only talk about underwear on Thursdays and whined about the lack of a haiku about them in the last issue, here's the Paul Owen underwear haiku:

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As it adorns my crotch zone.
Makes me feel like Kent.



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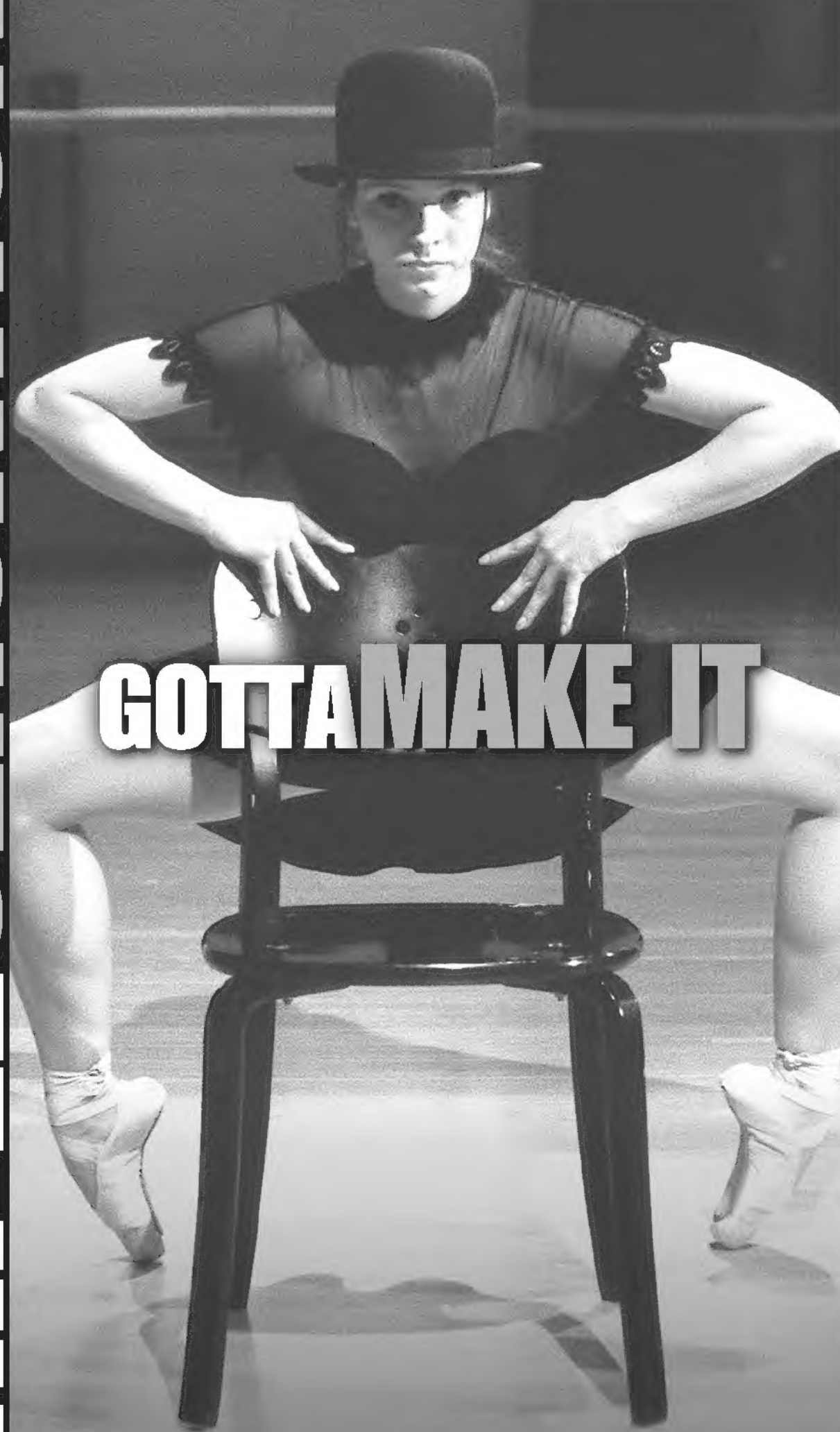
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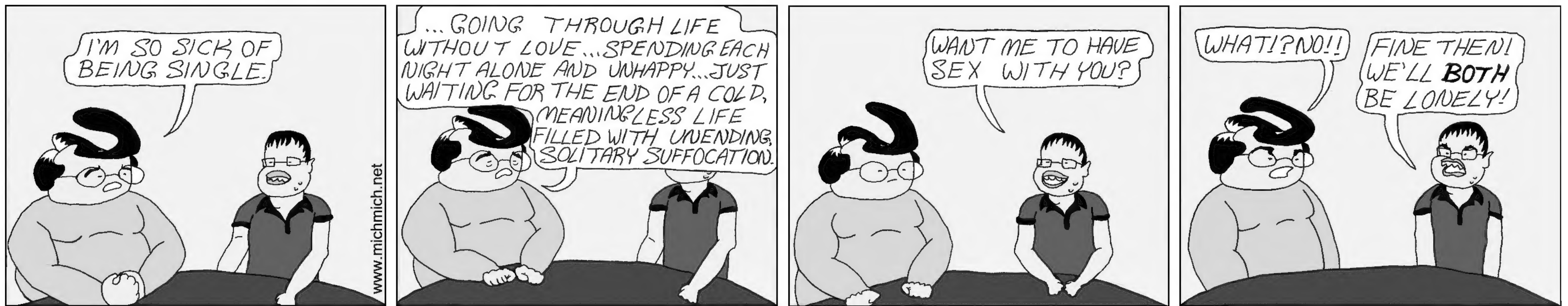
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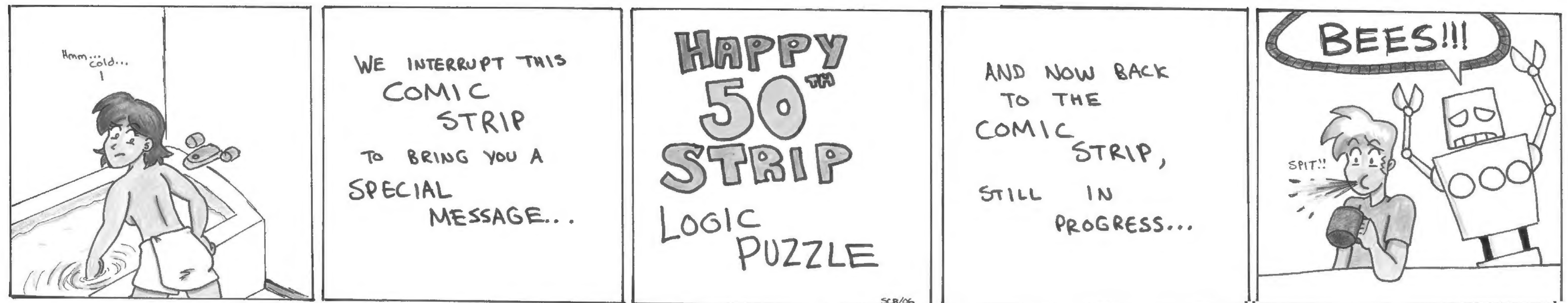
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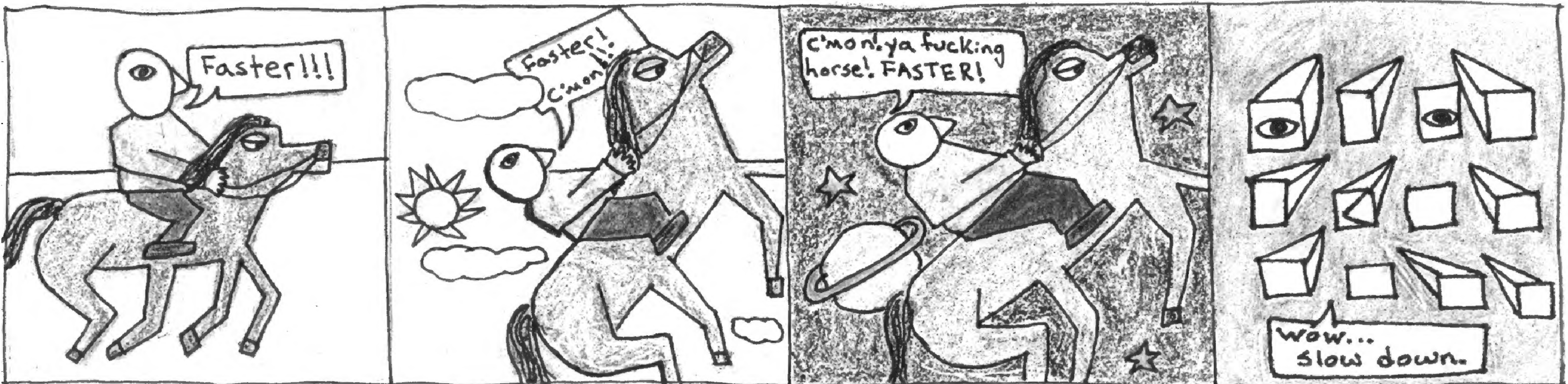
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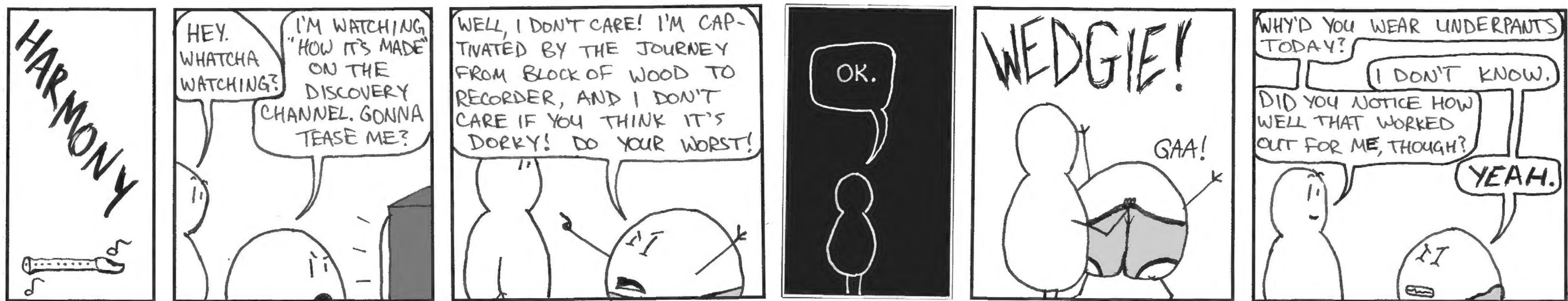
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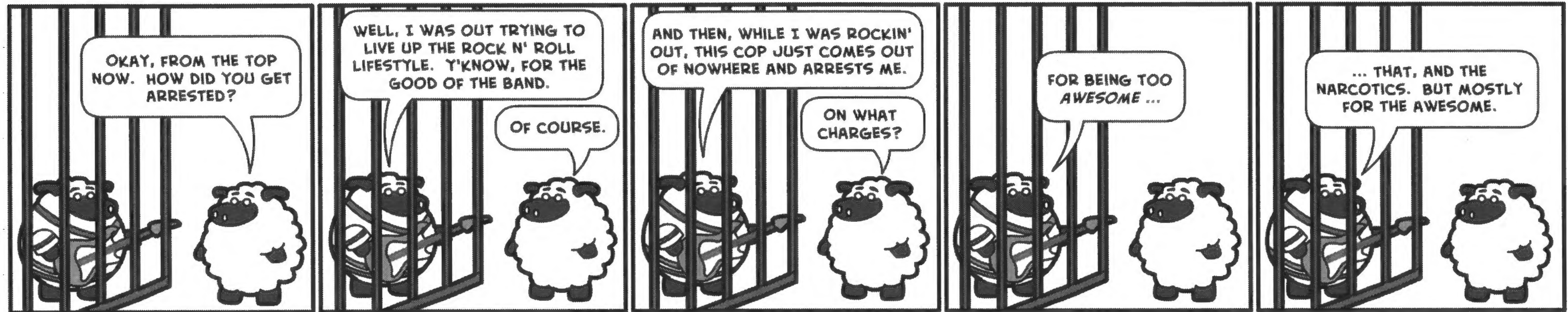
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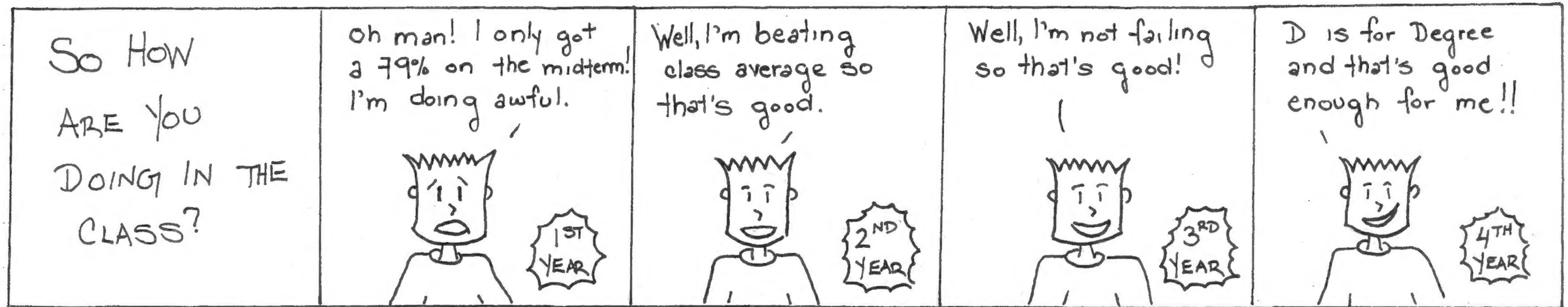
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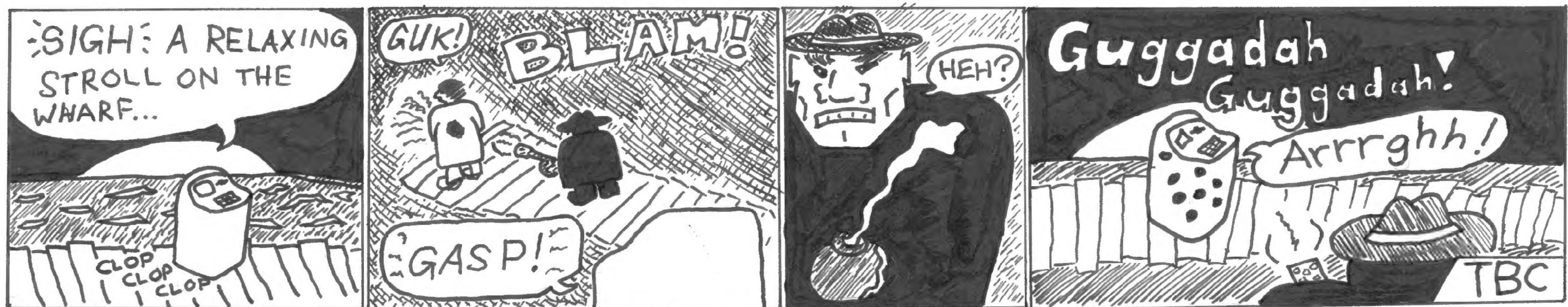
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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 21 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 23 november, 2006

Early exams bypass Calendar's policies



NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

On 8 December, almost ten per cent of all undergraduate students will sit down to write a consolidated exam—even though they should have been guaranteed the day off to study as explicitly defined by the University Calendar.

Under the guidelines of the 2006/07 University Calendar, fall-term examinations (both regular and consolidated) for all students except those in Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, the MD program, MScPT program and Augustana Faculty should run from 9–21 December. However, under a pilot project initiated by the General Faculties Council (GFC) Executive Committee last spring, multiple sections of a course will be able to come together and hold a consolidated exam outside of the final examination period.

"Students are being severely disadvantaged by this pilot project because they don't have the normal number of days to study and to prepare for these final exams after classes end," said Steve Kirkham, the undergraduate representative on the GFC Executive Committee. He noted that normally students have two to four guaranteed study days and an exam on 8 December cuts that number down to only one.

FINAL SHOWDOWN Ada Smude and Steve Kirkham take sides on the decision to hold consolidated exams outside of the University Calendar's testing timeline.

PLEASE SEE **EXAMS** ♦ PAGE 2

Edmonton number one with a bullet

Professor of criminology Keith Spencer attributes Alberta's economic boom as one of the factors contributing to the surge of murders in the capital city

THOMAS WAGNER
News Writer

In 2005, Edmonton recorded the highest homicide rate per capita in Canada, corresponding to a decade-high rise in murders, seeing 658 people killed across the country.

Last year, 44 people were murdered in Edmonton. Although this represents a nation-leading 4.29 homicides per 100 000 people and 18 more than Calgary, a city of comparable size to Edmonton, Keith Spencer, a former professor of criminology at the University of Alberta, feels there is little to fear for the average person.

"Edmonton is a small market [city] when it comes to murder in North America, when you consider cities like New York, Dallas or Los Angeles," Spencer explained. "We're a two-bit player here."

He feels the increase in homicides can be, in large part, attributed to gang- and drug-related murders, all brought into the city by the red-hot job market of Alberta, and

consequently, young, unattached males with money to spend.

"Young, single males are attracted here by high-moneyed jobs," Spencer said. "They've got money to spend on lounges, bars, drugs, cars, [all of which] fuels an industry of often illicit services."

This trend is supported by Statistics Canada, which noted that while the national homicide rate has been climbing, domestic and spousal murder rates have remained stable, with the growth in homicides fuelled in large part by, and for the most part involving, those leading high-risk lifestyles.

However, the average university student is considered high risk, as they are often single, independent and frequent bars or lounges. This perhaps explains the cautious response of most of the interviewed students in relation to Edmonton's homicide rate.

"I feel a little creeped out," said Stephanie Johnson, a first-year Arts student. "It makes me not want to go out to a bar."

Catriona Richmond, a second-year Physical Education student echoed Johnson's sentiment.

"I know I'd be fooling myself if I said it could never happen to me," Richmond said.

This isn't a feeling shared by Spencer, however. He doesn't think that Edmontonians should be fearful, noting that in most cases the regular person is very safe. He also feels that in many cases, people generalize from individual events and don't recognize the actual rarity of most high-profile murder cases.

"There are so few youth homicides across Canada that a little spurt makes it look like things are really going to hell," Spencer said. "I don't think there's really an epidemic."

This conclusion is also shared by Statistics Canada, which noted that despite recent high-profile cases, most notably the murder of Shane Rolston almost exactly a year ago, youth committed homicide rates have stayed relatively stable over the last 30 years.

Students drink more than they think: prof

CATHERINE SCOTT
News Writer

Does the average university student drink less than they say they do? In the past, posters around campus suggested that students exaggerate the amount they actually drink, which puts pressure on light drinkers to drink more. But some people at the University of Alberta would tend to disagree.

**"I think students
decidedly drink more
than what they report.
I don't think that there
is really significant
social pressure—I
think quite the
opposite."**

**DR LOUIS PAGLIARO,
U OF A PROFESSOR
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Dr Louis Pagliaro, co-director of the Substance Abusology and Clinical Pharmacology Research Group, thinks that students actually underestimate the amount that they drink.

"I think students decidedly drink more than what they report. I don't think that there is really significant social pressure—I think quite the opposite," Pagliaro, who is also a professor in Educational Psychology at the U of A, noted.

According to Pagliaro, students may actually blame social pressure if they drink excessively, and he dismisses this as an unjustified excuse. He stated that many university students take advantage of campus life and the drinking opportunities it offers, and he said that many high-school students will keep schools' party reputations in mind when choosing a university.

"How many kids come to University A versus University B based on the reputation that ... [it's] a party university?" Pagliaro asked.

PLEASE SEE **DRINKING** ♦ PAGE 4

Inside

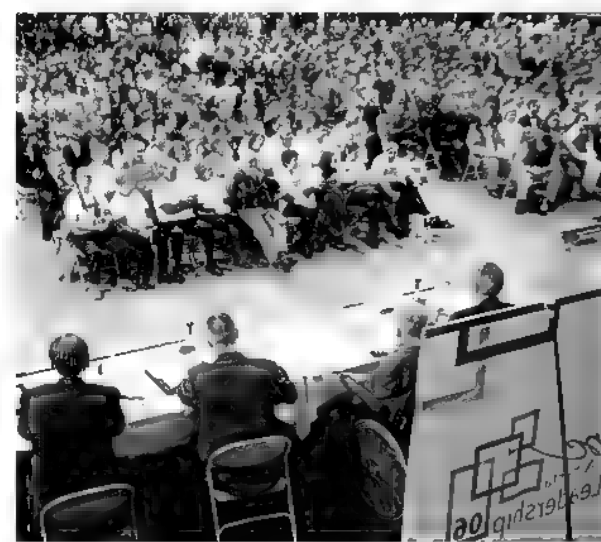
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Can politics be sexy?

Elizabeth McMillan thinks so. At least, she has ever since her encounter with Peter Mackay.

OPINION, PAGE 6



Notorious PC

With a bursting piggy bank, Tory leadership hopefuls must look outside the conservative box.

FEATURE, PAGE 9

The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca

2. Leader of the Zebesian Space Pirates in the *Metroid* series, it is a sentient biological computer.
5. The villainous ninja Oroku Saki often takes this more menacing persona when battling his foes, a group of genetically modified adolescent reptiles.
10. Captain of the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy, this Corellian smuggler and his furry co-pilot eventually help the Rebels blow up the Death Star.
12. Leader of the Fuma Ninja clan in the service of the Hojo family, this famous ninja is responsible for killing Takeda Shingen and Hanzo Hattori.
13. A member of the elite GI Joe team, this master of stealth and martial arts has no official background, and his real name remains a secret to this day.
15. This young man, who is possessed by a Nine-Tailed Demon Fox, is also known as the "Number One Loudest, Unpredictable, Hyperactive Knuckleheaded Ninja" of Konoha.
16. The notorious, nay, dread pirate of William Goldman's classic novel, dressed all in black and reputed to leave no survivors.
17. This man, the future king of the Hyperborean kingdom of Aquilonia, pirated the seas at one point in his bloody career of conquest.
20. Captain of the *Jolly Roger*, he

wages a ceaseless war with an eternally young boy, and fears the death that is personified by a ticking crocodile.

22. Rev Dr Christopher Syn disguised himself as this blood-thirsty pirate to take revenge on those who stole his wife away from him.

23. Captain of the Straw Hat Pirates, this star of the *One Piece* series ate the legendary Devil Fruit, giving him rubber-like powers.

25. An English privateer and hero, this man is a boogeyman to the Spanish for his epic raids up and down the Spanish Main, and is known by Spaniards as "El Draqui."

26. The leader of the Ninja Crow clan in *Samurai Pizza Cats*, and one of the Big Cheese's most capable minions.

1. Servant of the Kunou family in the *Ranma 1/2* series, this ninja is a skilled master of the cup-and-ball and is often referred to by his charge as an “Impudent Whelp”
3. This ninja star of the *Gaiden* series has trained hard to become the legendary Dragon Ninja, and won the second *Dead or Alive* tournament.
4. Elizabeth Braddock, a mutant possessing telekinesis and a member of the X-Men, uses this superheroic codename when kicking some villainous ass.
6. Arguably one of Japan’s most

famous ninja, he served Tokugawa Iyeyasu and led the Iga ninja clan.

7. This pirate engaged in a pitched battle with Captain Haddock's ancestor, Sir. Francis Haddock, in the *Adventures of Tintin*.

8. Commodore Norrington once remarked that this man was "the worst pirate" he'd ever seen. He was later forced to retract that remark.

9. The pirate Edward Teach was more famously known by this infamous nickname.

11. Arguably the star of *Treasure Island*, this pirate masqueraded as a ship's cook in order to find the lost treasure of Captain Flint.

14. This yellow garbed ninja has returned from the dead to have revenge for the death of his clan, and is best known for his catch phrase; "Get over here!"

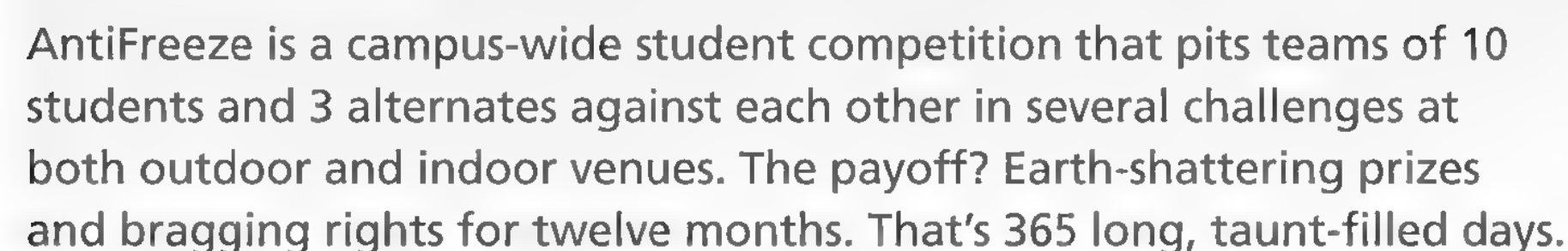
18. Formerly a member of the Hand Ninja clan, this superheroine eventually fell in with the roguish Daredevil, becoming his off-again, on-again love interest.

19. This menacing zombie-ghost pirate built a sinister amusement park on Monkey Island, while searching for the famed treasure known as Big Whoop.

21. The female assassin of Frank Miller's *Sin City*, she is the defender of Old Town.

24. This plucky teenaged ninja tries to steal all your Materia in *Final Fantasy VII*.

A crossword puzzle grid with 26 numbered squares indicating the starting positions for words. The grid is black and white, with black squares forming the background and white squares forming the puzzle area.

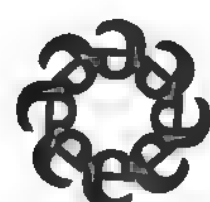


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THE GATEWAY

thursday, 23 november, 2006
volume XCVII number 21

Published since 21 november, 1910
Circulation 12 000
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (G&S), a student-run autonomous organization not-for-profit organization operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.



THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian Press.

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colophon

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Rules aren't meant to be broken: Kirkham

Student representatives remain uncertain how far university policies can be bended for pilot projects.

EXAMS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Associate Registrar and Director of Records Ada Smude explained that the pilot project was developed in response to an increased demand to hold consolidated examinations and that an initial proposal was presented to have three exam periods—with an additional one running in the evening. However, as that was seen as too much of a burden on students, an alternative proposal to avoid scheduling conflicts lead to the arranging of final consolidated exams on 8 December, 2006, as well on 16 April, 2007 for the winter semester.

"The registrar was put in a position where it had to pick between two evils, essentially, and they picked the one that would be less detrimental," Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry explained, adding that she generally supports pilot projects, which are continually being run on campus.

"[Pilot projects] get to test to see if something works without any sort of significant consequences," Henry said, but noted that the political process of setting exams dates outside of the pre-existing exam schedule hadn't been fully explained to her.

"I haven't received a satisfactory answer from the University with regards to how this pilot project interacts with the Calendar," she said.

Kirkham further said the motion he submitted in August to reinstate the dates of all final exams as per the University timetable was unwelcomed by the Director of GFC Services, University Secretariat, Garry Bodnar.

"I haven't received a satisfactory answer from the University with regards to how this pilot project interacts with the Calendar."

AMANDA HENRY,
STUDENTS' UNION
VP (ACADEMIC)

"Bodnar actually refused to have the GFC Executive Committee hear my motion. Instead what he did is he unilaterally referred it to a sub-sub-committee of GFC called the Subcommittee on Standards," Kirkham said.

But according to Bodnar, the U of A has a long history of engaging in pilot projects that do contravene existing administrative and academic policies. He also stressed the University Administration works hard to ensure

that anything that does go into the Calendar is accurate at the time of publication.

"While there was no formal motion that endorsed the pilot project, there was general agreement within the [GFC] executive committee that the registrar's office should move forward with the implementation of the pilot project," he said.

Smude and Bodnar also both noted every attempt was made to make it clear to students that these exams would be held on days outside of the Calendar's final examination period.

"It was recognized that when the pilot project went from GFC in the spring that the Calendar publication deadline had already been passed. So immediately after that meeting the examinations website was updated to indicate that there would be a pilot project in 2006/07," Smude said, also stressing that when classes began in the fall announcements were made to inform students they were partaking in a pilot project.

But for Kirkham, informing students who would be affected by the pilot project is secondary to the fact that these students were never initially consulted.

"Even though instructors agreed to this [and] faculties agreed to this—students in these courses were never asked whether they wanted to participate

in this pilot project," Kirkham continued, pointing out that almost all students are done registering by May and this change didn't come out until last June.

"If the University Secretariat Garry Bodnar arbitrarily states this is going to be a pilot project [and] so it doesn't have to adhere to any university policy, that's very dangerous ground to tread on," Kirkham said.

And according to SU Ombudsperson Chris Samuel, it's rare for situations to arise that go against the Calendar's regulations and as such he's unsure what sort of recourse students have.

"I mean, there's not a section of the Calendar that says if the rules are going to be broken this is how you're going to break them," he said, adding that if students feel disadvantaged by having to write a consolidated exam they would have to submit an appeal after grades have posted as in any other course.

But Smude and Bodnar also noted that the University does on occasion have to bend away from what's outlined in the Calendar.

"There is a little statement in the front of the Calendar that just outlines [that] every effort is made to ensure that it's accurate but if we do have to make changes it happens sometimes," Smude said.

STREETERS

The 25 November elections for the leadership of the provincial Progressive Conservative party is quickly approaching, and some are calling for Albertans to purchase memberships to the party.

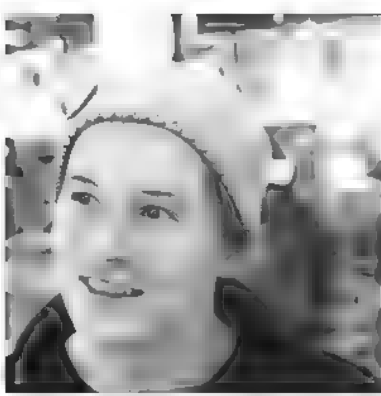
How do you feel about having to purchase a membership to vote in the race?



Imran Thaver
Science V



Taylor Merritt
Engineering I



Katherine
Mazurok
Poli Sci IV



Michael Gaultois
Chemistry III

I think it's pretty preposterous, just to be buying membership to vote. I mean, if you're actually a member of that party and you actually have an affiliation with them, then I think it's advantageous for them to participate in the vote. But if not, then I don't really see the point of buying a membership to vote.

It's a good thing. Anyone can join and go to the meetings.

It's the Conservative Party's right to say, "If you want to vote for our leader, you need a membership." But I object to the fact that it's being public advertised as, "If you want a say in who is going to be the next premier of the province, you need to have a membership in the Progressive Conservative party to vote, because that will be the only way to have a say."

I guess as long as you know the consequences of it, you can decide whether you buy in or not.

Compiled and photographed by Scott Lilwall and Mike Otto



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McMaster University newspaper editor ‘terminated without cause’

STEPHANIE SMITH
Excalibur

TORONTO (CUP)—The editor-in-chief of McMaster University’s largest student paper says he was fired “without cause” by the Students Union.

Chris Jaic of the *Silhouette*, McMaster’s undergraduate student newspaper, wasn’t given a reason for his removal from his position by representatives from the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors.

The MSU is the publisher of the *Silhouette*, though the paper’s independence in terms of editorial content is guaranteed in the Students Union’s policies.

On 3 November, Jaic followed MSU executives into an empty boardroom in the McMaster Student Centre.

Jaic said he entered the meeting light-heartedly, believing that the MSU reps were simply going to discuss a concern regarding fashion-related content that had upset the nursing community.

The real purpose of the meeting, however, was to dismiss him from his post at the *Silhouette*.

John McGowan, MSU business manager, said that Jaic’s dismissal wasn’t an editorial issue.

“It was strictly a personnel issue,” he said. “It’s our policy not to discuss human resources matters publicly.”

Jaic’s letter of dismissal stated, “You have been terminated without cause from your position as *Silhouette* executive editor with the McMaster Students Union.”

“I am not aware of any reason why I should be terminated, and I was not informed of any situation that would lead to my termination,” Jaic said.

Jaic alleges his termination was related to recent news coverage investigating improprieties regarding an MSU activity.

The MSU wasn’t available for comment on this matter at the time of publication.

“I am not aware of any reason why I should be terminated, and I was not informed of any situation that would lead to my termination.”

**CHRIS JAIC,
FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
THE SILHOUETTE**

Questions about the process that led to Jaic’s dismissal have also arisen.

The policy on dismissals says “any paid staff member may be dismissed from the *Silhouette* by two-thirds majority vote of the *Silhouette* board of publication. This decision shall be subject to ratification by the MSU executive board.” The board of publication includes three *Silhouette* editors, three Students Union members, the Students Union business manager, and the manager of the Students Union’s ad and copy centre.

However the decision to terminate Jaic didn’t go through the publication board.

But according to Jaic’s hiring letter, the board of publication has the ability to terminate the editor for reasons including improper conduct, insubordination, disobedience and neglect of duty.

Jaic said his contract also stated “the Board of Directors may also terminate your employment, otherwise than for just cause, provided that notice or payment in lieu thereof be provided to you and shall be inclusive to any payments required” by Ontario’s Employment Standards Act of 1990.

Jaic confirmed that he was given a severance package.

He has met with members of the Student Representative Assembly, a body that is superior to the MSU, which will make a decision as to whether policy was followed.

The *Silhouette*’s editorial board said that the manner in which Jaic was terminated leaves them uncertain about their working relationship with the MSU Board of Directors.

The 17 editorial board members are putting forward a motion to reinstate Jaic.

The most recent high-profile termination of an editor of a Canadian university newspaper occurred last year in Saskatoon. Editor-in-chief Will Robins of the *Sheaf* newspaper at the University of Saskatchewan was encouraged to resign by fellow staff members after a controversial comic was published.

Student sues over residence rent increase

MARK IHNATOWYCZ
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—Residences at McGill have received a court notice for withdrawing money from a student’s bank account to cover a rent increase she claims she didn’t agree to pay.

Elena Allen-Lukawieki, a first-year student at McGill University in Montréal, filed a civil lawsuit 13 November with the Régie du Logement, Québec’s lease tribunal. She’s demanding that McGill Residences pay back the extra \$26.50 it has withdrawn from her account in each of the past three months to cover a higher rent than stipulated by her original lease.

Within two weeks of moving into Solin Hall this September, Allen-Lukawieki received a new lease in the mail informing her that her rent had increased because she had been assigned one of the residence’s larger rooms, where rent is \$682. Room assignment is random, but students not able to afford the higher rent may ask McGill Residences to move them to a smaller room.

“They withdrew money without consent according to a lease I didn’t sign,” Allen-Lukawieki said.

The lease that Allen-Lukawieki did sign includes a supplementary clause stating that the minimal \$656-per-month rent is subject to change based on room size, but she never signed the second lease that McGill sent her when it informed her of the rent increase.

Instead, she approached McGill Residences to challenge the subsequent withdrawal from her account. According to Allen-Lukawieki, McGill Residences said that the increase is a standard one for all residences and has



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

RISING RATES Rent increases have one McGill student pursuing legal avenues.

never before been contested.

But Allen-Lukawieki said it isn’t the money driving her to go to court, but the chance to challenge McGill’s policies.

“It’s not really about the compensation. It’s a precedent to be set; whether or not McGill’s policies are legal is in question,” she said. “How the Régie rules may change McGill’s leasing policies to the benefit of students.”

According to Régie spokesman Jean-Pierre LeBlanc, agreed-upon supplementary clauses in a lease are, in general, legally binding.

“On general leases, a landlord cannot increase rent. A previously signed supplementary clause, however, is akin to a verbal agreement; even if a new lease is not signed, the agreed-to contract can be put in place,” he said, although he wouldn’t comment on the specifics of the case.

LeBlanc added that, in most cases, the landlord is obligated to withdraw rent directly from the tenant unless the lease specifically states that rent will come from other sources.

Allen-Lukawieki, who has since moved into a smaller room with lower rent, said that she’s also concerned with the rising rents at McGill housing units over the past three years. According to her research, rent at Solin has increased by \$56 per year.

Allen-Lukawieki also said she will bring up the rising rents in residences during a public meeting with McGill principal Heather Monroe-Blum on 22 November.

At the time of print, McGill Residences and Student Housing director Florence Tracy was unavailable for comment while other representatives of McGill Residences declined to comment.

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Students can't whine about pressure to drink: Pagliaro

DRINKING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While drinking and university seem to go hand-in-hand for many students who believe that their habits are harmless, Pagliaro said that it can actually lead to more serious problems.

"There's a tremendous problem on campus. Statistics tell us that probably, minimally, one in five college coeds will be sexually assaulted while in attendance at the U of A and many of these are date rapes that occur when one or both parties are intoxicated," Pagliaro insisted.

Tiana Doell, a second-year education student, believes that some students aren't aware of how much they're drinking.

"A lot of students drink too much," she said, adding that she thinks a lot of them also lie about how much they drink or don't seem to realize how often they do it and how much they're drinking at a time.

"The ones that actually probably have a problem seem to underestimate it."

There are students who don't consider themselves to be partiers, and who say that they aren't affected by how much their peers drink. Natalie Ryan, a third-year science student, has friends who enjoy going out to drink, but she that she has never felt obligated to drink.

"I've never felt like my friends are pressuring me, and I've never felt pressured to keep drinking even if I wanted to stop," she said.

Ryan did, however, note that drinking is very much a part of campus life.

"Did you go to orientation and [hear] all those songs for the different faculties? [One] song had something about beer and drinking," Ryan said.

As for the reason students drink, Pagliaro said that they can blame no one but themselves for their decision to drink to excess.

"[Students say] 'the devil made me do it.' Nobody made you do it. You did it because you wanted to," Pagliaro confirmed.

NEWS BRIEF

Written by Maria Kotovych

MIDDAY MOURNING MARCH

Last Tuesday, the members of the Students' Union gathered in Quad and held a funeral to symbolically mourn the death of affordable education in the province.

"We are marking the passing of the promise that was made in February 2005 by Premier Klein that Alberta would have the most affordable tuition policy in Canada," said Dave Cournoyer, SU Vice-President (External).

On 3 November, the provincial government announced a new tuition policy after finishing a review of the postsecondary education system. This year, Alberta's tuition rates have students paying more than the national average and would exceed prices in Québec, Manitoba and Newfoundland, and Cournoyer argues rates won't likely improve under the new policy.

"A lot of students saw a lot of hope in that promise, when the provincial government finally recognized the burden that students were dealing with, with high tuition rates, which meant crushing student debt rates after graduation,"



HAEIM CHOI

COFFIN UP TUITION Chaplain Reimer leads the procession through Quad.

Cournoyer explained. "[The funeral is a] good symbol of what has actually happened with the promise of affordable education."

Chaplain Richard Reimer, from the Lutheran Campus Ministry said a prayer at the funeral, and Cournoyer delivered the eulogy. Assembled mourners grieved, and students laid roses on the coffin.

"We pray for those who turn away, gifted with intellect, but fearful of the cost. May access be tied to their aptitude and interest and industriousness, rather than the depth of their wallets," Reimer prayed.

Leah Trueblood, a second-year

philosophy student, attended the ceremony. She said that her philosophy training emphasizes "critical reflection and thought," and stated that those skills should be available to those in all socio-economic classes.

Larry Booi, chair of Public Interest Alberta, who has worked with the SU on a taskforce on postsecondary education, also attended the funeral.

"The promise from the government was betrayed. And there is no other word for it but betrayal. The government said that there would be the lowest tuition fees in the country. It's simply not true," he said.



FACT: The self-titled "Wormman," Mike Hogg, holds the world record for the most night crawlers eaten in a 30-second period—94 creepy crawlers. He also has the record for the most night crawlers eaten in an hour at a mind-blowing 15 pounds. And he's proud of it. He made *T-shirts*.

FACT: The *Gateway* news team has unanimously decided to ban Mark Hogg and all activities related to night-crawler-eating from all news meetings, held in 3-04 SUB at 3pm Fridays, in the interest of good taste.

Come on now—15 pounds? Honestly, what the hell prompts someone to do that?

GATEWAY NEWS
Seriously can't handle this since 1910



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LA a hotspot of police brutality

AS RESIDENTS WITHIN OUR OWN LITTLE 35 000-person community here at the U of A, we've got it pretty good. If you're ever out with some friends on campus and find yourself involved with the Campus 5-0, be glad that the most they've got to deal out to unruly citizens are some heavily dictated batons and a call to the EPS. South of the border at the UCLA, however, campus security comes fully equipped with tasers—and they aren't afraid to use them.

On the night of 14 November, an incident occurred in one of that school's campus libraries. Mostafa Tabatabaiejad, a student who was in the library late in the evening—presumably to do some studying—was stopped by the campus security and asked to produce identification. This is all well and good, as any citizen of the age of majority is typically expected to carry with him or her some form of ID. The libraries have had a policy of checking them for years, especially after 11pm, which is apparently when all the freaks come out. While there are several unconfirmed reports and much hearsay, the general consensus is that the events leading up to this encounter led the student to believe that he was being racially profiled.

Obviously offended by this situation, the student voiced his concerns—perhaps a little too smarmily—with the powers that be. What began as a few words of conflict quickly escalated into a shouting match. Unpleasant yes, but nothing unexpected for this type of situation. Now, here's where things got ugly.

After ordering a now visually upset Tabatabaiejad to comply, officers aggressively ordered him to leave. Indignant but obedient, the student shouted that the officers not touch him. Just as quickly as the argument began, it got entirely out of hand, and the student was suddenly tasered by campus security.

Now, never having felt the electrifying kiss of a stun-gun myself, I can't speak from experience, but I imagine a flurry of unpleasant thoughts would culminate within a very short time span, mostly along the lines of shock, anger and pain.

This was essentially Tabatabaiejad's reaction as well, as a horrified crowd gathered around the officers and their "assailant." As seen on a video shot on another student's cellphone camera, several students verbally demanded that the officers stop, and cried that security was acting completely out of line. Over choked gasps for air and pleas for mercy, the victim of the attack exclaimed, "Here's your Patriot Act!" The words hit with a resounding familiarity: this seems like exactly the kind of abuse of power that Bush's breaches of the constitution have allowed. Meanwhile, the officers continued to apply force to the student, who struggled to stand up as instructed because he was physically unable to do so. Onlookers attempted to stop the madness and demanded the officers' badge numbers, but were only threatened with being tasered themselves.

Naturally, this sparked an outrage on campus. Students have begun to protest and appeal their safety to University Administration. However, Norman Abrams, Acting Chancellor of the UCLA, offered the media a chilling statement. Not only does he have no sympathy for the student, but he completely supports the actions of campus security, pointing to the UCLA's "ID after 11" policy. Apparently part of this policy entails that failure to do so will result in 300 000 volts of electricity being surged through your body.

In what is undoubtedly just a coincidence, Abrams has recently published a book titled *Anti-Terrorism and Criminal Enforcement*, touted as "the first casebook to deal comprehensively with the rapidly evolving field of anti-terrorism law and the criminal enforcement process." However, the only thing still rapidly evolving here is the stupidity and ignorance of America's homeland patriots, who are more concerned with keeping their country's civil rights in the stone age than willing to accept any kind of leeway that could lead to another catastrophic attack.

It's no surprise that so many of our generation have garnered a brooding distrust of authority, based simply on the narrow-minded aggression of those in positions of power. From a corrupt president down to the lowliest of abusive campus security, as this type of "heroic" mentality is allowed to proliferate, it's no wonder the rest of the world hates the West.

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

LETTERS

Molzan responds

I feel as though the main point of my letter last week was missed. I wasn't out to choke Gateway readers or debate the increase of tuition compared to 20 years ago, and I certainly remember writing specifically about tuition, not health care.

First, let me say that I have the utmost respect for Ms Conklin (re: "Molzan's got it wrong," 21 November). Clearly, she has made numerous sacrifices in pursuit of her degree. After evaluating the true cost of a postsecondary education, not just the dollars and cents, she ultimately decided that it was worth the sacrifice. By choosing to pursue further education, we have all agreed to the sacrifices that come with it. None of us are being forced to attend post-secondary.

If you've looked around campus lately, you will have noticed that there are many projects underway that are partially funded by the Alberta Government. These upgrades attract world-class researchers and professors that contribute to the U of A, bolstering its reputation [and] ultimately benefiting the students who attend. For the high quality of education we receive at this institution, we are lucky to pay as little as we do, especially when compared to what the same quality education would cost in other parts of the world.

There are thousands of students on campus, all from different backgrounds; the one thing we have in common is that we all choose to be here, rising tuition and all. Contrary to Mr Palmer's assumption that I have rich parents and no understanding of the challenges many students face (re: "Don't burden students with the tuition load," 21 November), the fact is that if I were to write on a brick in SUB tomorrow, it would read \$20 000. The only help I receive from my parents is free beef from the farm I grew up on. However, my situation is irrelevant to my point, which is that if you've decided a degree at the U of A is worth the cost, then stop complaining about tuition.

KYLE MOLZAN
Engineering IV

The tuition it is a-risin'

Sign my name up for Molzan's team. I'm sick of hearing people complain about how cheap tuition was back when their parents went to school. Times have changed, university facilities have improved and teaching standards are higher than ever. Along with these changes comes [the] need for higher funding.

Call me the devil's advocate, but maybe some people just have to accept the fact that postsecondary education is a real privilege, one that you have to pay for. Now I'm all for everyone's right to a decent education, but the real world out there revolves around money. With the rate of inflation in today's market, it only makes sense that tuition rises accordingly. If tuition was dirty cheap here, then everyone from across Canada would be coming here, and then you'd all start bitching about how you can't even get into your own province's university.



SCOTT C BOURGEOIS

What make me even sicker are people slandering ridiculous statements about how they can't afford tuition. Jenna Conklin, your personal background of being a single mom with a two-year-old son wins absolutely zero sympathy from me. This isn't chicken soup for the student's soul. This is real life. Maybe you should have thought of the financial consequence of starting your own family while pursuing a postsecondary education.

Moreover, the SU's wall of debt is something to laugh about, along with their mock funeral for cheap tuition. The turnout of ten people was definitely something to be proud of. While you're at it, you might as well mourn the loss of cheap gas and affordable housing. Times are changing, deal with it. If anything, Kyle is right about one thing. Postsecondary education is an investment, and if you don't think it's a sound investment, don't come here.

CHRIS TSANG
Engineering III

Are you or have you ever been in debt?

The mudslinging that's been going on between the raging socialists and Kyle Molzan has the potential to erupt into an all-out battle. I did my part to fuel the fire by posting a banner reading, "If you do not believe a good education is worth your money, do not go to school," over the infamous Wall of Debt Monday morning. It lasted less than 15 minutes before being torn down, but the little bit of controversy it has stirred up let's me know its brief bout of fame did not go entirely unnoticed.

Last I checked, no one's holding a gun to your head demanding you attend university. You have every freedom to say no. Be rational, and choose your priorities wisely. If university is really where you want to be, count the cost as a necessary evil and take the appropriate action to successfully fund your schooling. You can take a less demanding

course load to work part time, or even enjoy a full year off to earn some cash. The objective of the University of Alberta is not to rob you, so stop treating the institution providing you with the assets to succeed in life as the enemy.

Also, if the Students' Union really believes in their cause, perhaps they could start donating their wages to the students suffering under the most significant debtloads?

BRIDGET CASEY
Science II

A wakeup call for BoG

It's time for students to demand more from the University's Board of Governors. After attending the 20 November Finance and Property committee meeting, it's clear that some University leaders have lost touch with the student population. SU President Sam Power, the only student voice on the committee, was joined by a dozen other students concerned enough to wake up at 7am on a Monday to oppose the suggested ten per cent rent increases. Sadly, it appears not to have made a difference.

The University VP (Facilities and Operations) contributed the rent increase to two reasons: increasing market prices and high deferred maintenance costs. While the prices in the rental market are rising, how can we possibly compare a double room in classic Lister to any other apartments in the University area?

Is there suddenly a market for accommodations where the landlord's disregard for tenants leaves residents hunting down mice, sleeping in SUB while their rooms are being fumigated for bedbugs, or frustrated because the heaters in their rooms will not work properly? Additionally, I haven't encountered a landlord that forces tenants to spend \$1800 on overpriced food that can only be purchased from specific providers. Compared to the market prices, rents should be decreasing, not increasing. As for deferred maintenance,

after years of neglect it appears the University is surprised that buildings need repairs. Relying on current residents to pay for this is ridiculous.

It's time to dare the University to deliver more to on-campus residents. University residences are the homes to future leaders of our city, province and country, a place where life-long friendships are made. Students must be able to focus on the many positive experiences of living in residence without being disregarded and ignored. We need to break the tradition of paying more to receive less. On 11 January, I challenge the Board of Governors to listen to students and reject the proposed fee increases. Furthermore, I urge the University to work with students, the SU and the RHA to improve the quality of the residence experience.

STEVEN DOLLANSKY
SU Councillor

So ... Veggie Tales is a Christian allegory?

Judging by the rave reviews from across Canada for the show *Aladdin*, which I am the proud director of, I can only assume that someone pissed in your reviewer's cornflakes (re: "Aladdin rubs the wrong way," 16 November). The reporter also mentions liking *Veggie Tales*, and states that *Veggie Tales* is a show University students find amusing. I'm very glad that our show isn't a Christian cartoon, and I'm sorry for the faculty at the U of A if indeed they are teaching kids that find *Veggie Tales* entertaining. Mentally challenged university students definitely weren't our target audience, and your reviewer is doing them a great favour by steering them away from *Aladdin*. They just wouldn't get it, poor things.

TED DYKSTRA
Via e-mail

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

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The politics of sexiness

Never underestimate the ability to allure when it comes to garnering votes



ELIZABETH
MCMILLAN

On the eve of last January's federal election, I sat down for lunch with the man who within days would be named Foreign Affairs Minister. We arranged to meet for an interview in the residence meal hall at St Francis Xavier University, located in his home riding of Central Nova, NS. I prepared a set of generic education-related questions suited to appeal to students. I also wanted to throw in some interrogations on his Iraq position and Harper's proposed policies—just standard future-cabinet-minister fare.

But first I should tell you this—Peter Mackay has beautiful eyes. He was wearing a blue sweater that highlighted said eyes. He's also goddamn charming. Within seconds I had lost my composure, and realized that I was flirting with the enemy. My left-wing antagonism melted, like so much liberal butter, in the wake of his confidence, and (dare I say it?) sex appeal.

Instead of answering my questions, MacKay leaned across the cafeteria bench and managed to turn the tables on me. With that personable way of zeroing in on people that benefits politicians so well, he asked me a few questions: what did I think of online voting? What issues were St FX students talking about? I stammered a few questions of my own, but soon realized that I was out of my league. This Parliamentary playboy was all too familiar with his powers of persuasion.

When I dropped MacKay off at

the campus radio station for his next interview, it was a huge relief. There were five days until the elections and I needed to let my integrity grow back. But the incident made me wonder: what is it about powerful people that makes us swoon? Why do otherwise intelligent people become so captivated in someone's aura—and how does this reaction impact voting trends?

Arguably every Canadian would be more interested in politics if it was sexier. The 1990s gave us Jean Chrétien, the most uncharismatic leader we could have asked for. If he didn't alienate up-and-coming voters, I don't know who could have done

personality count just as much as ideas with our politicians. This weekend, the film *Bobby* hits theatres. Would the Kennedys still be a household name if JFK was an eye-sore? Doubtful.

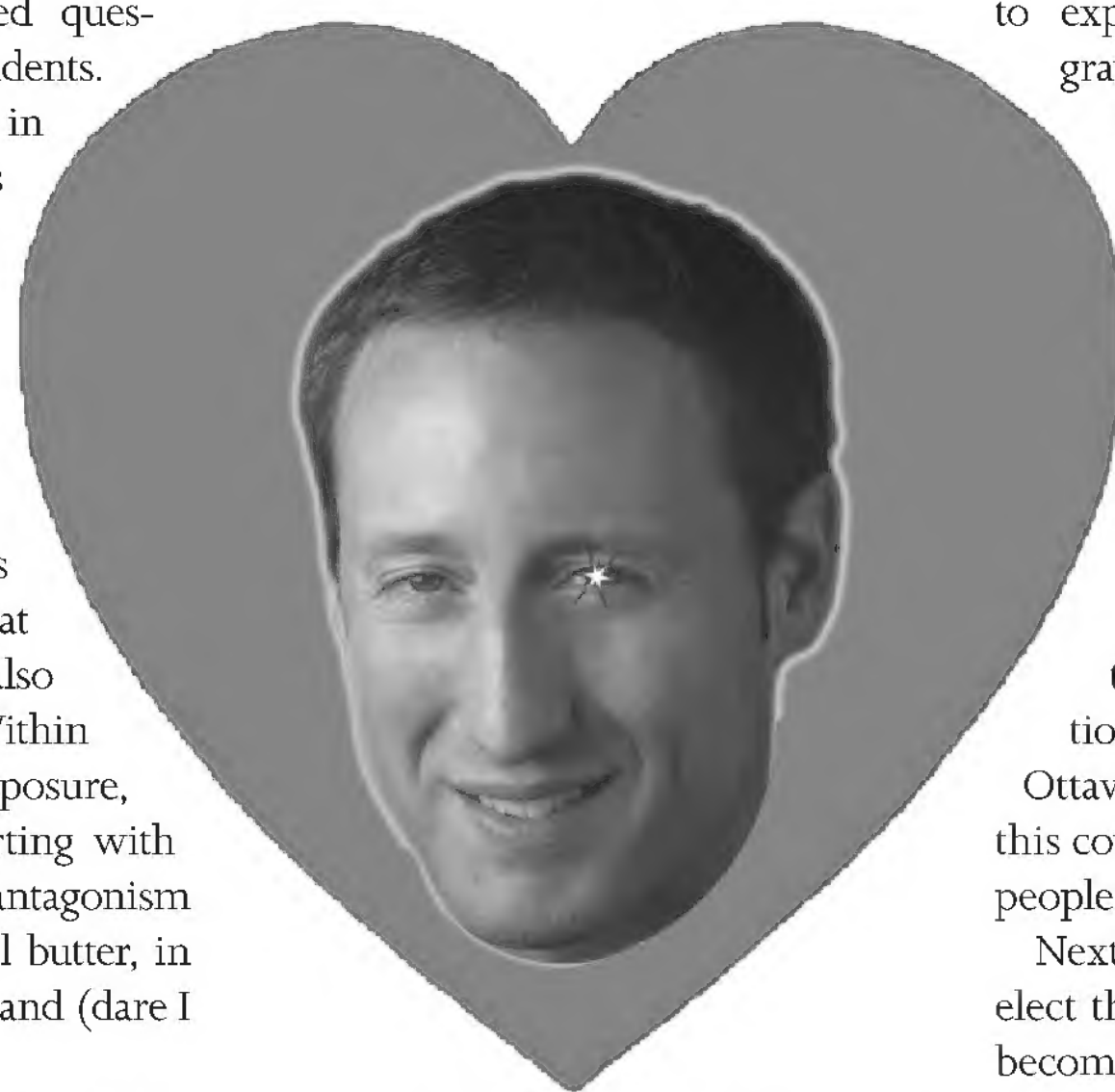
Politics shouldn't need to be sexy. Yet in an age that sees as many headlines about Brad Pitt or Paris Hilton as world conflict, it's easy to get distracted by intriguing faces and flashy scandals. How many young Canadians could name more than a handful of current Cabinet ministers? Regardless, I bet a lot more could tell you that Belinda Stronach is sleeping with Tie Domi.

While the elected franchise needs to expand voters will continue to gravitate towards politicians whom they want to reflect in themselves. Voters choose people they believe in, and part of the political game involves interacting with the audience. People like MacKay are masters at it.

Maybe Canada still wants, and perhaps needs, a new Trudeau—someone to make the rest of the world pay attention and return some glamour to Ottawa. It's been a long time since this country had a leader that inspired people to care about politics.

Next week the Liberal Party will elect their next leader, who may well become our next Prime Minister. Will the most charming candidate win? I hope not. I hope they're smart, articulate and informed, but half the battle is getting attention and beating out TomKat for air time.

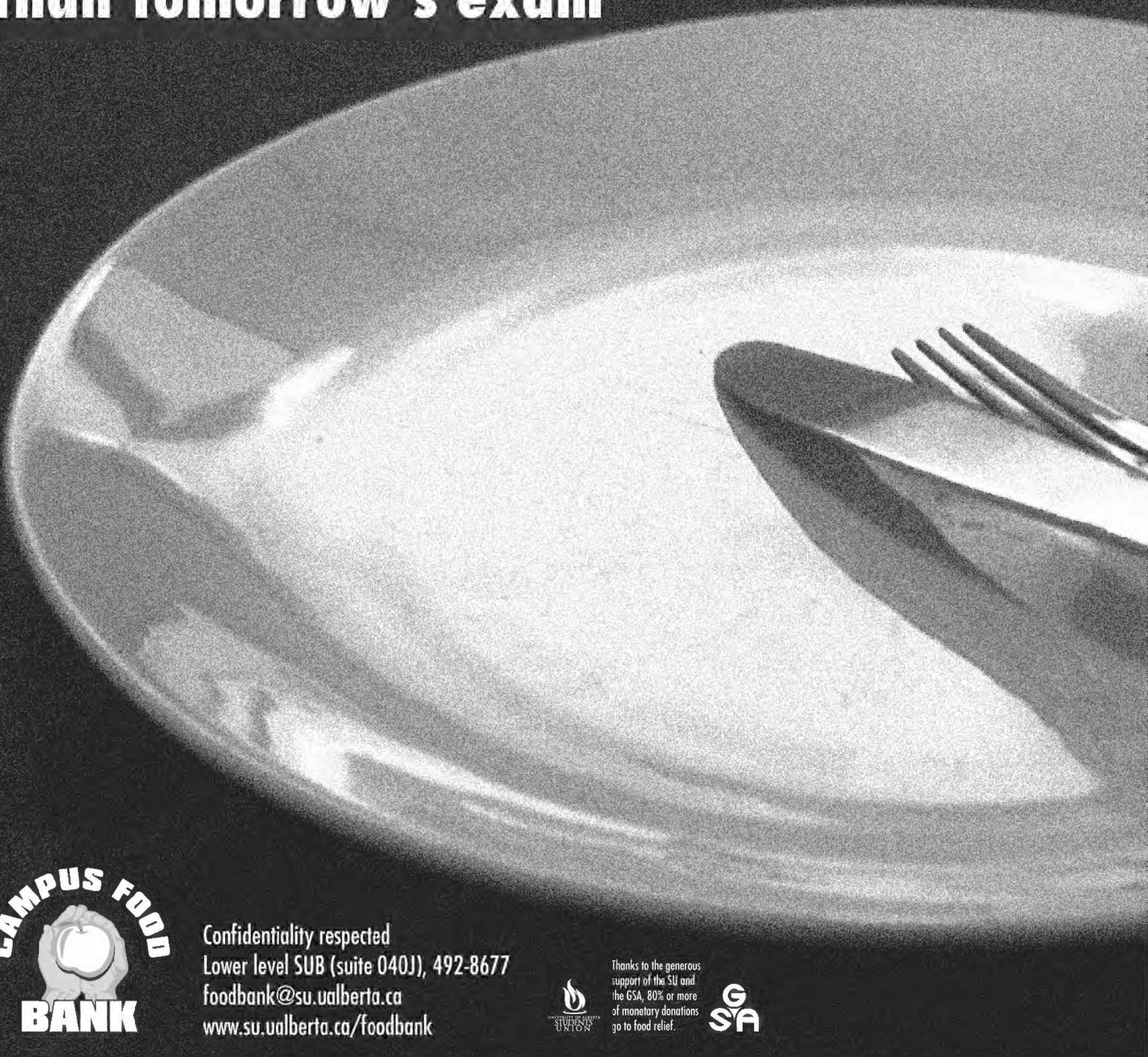
So what's the solution? Take charisma with enough humility to captivate and energize an audience; take charm as long as it's backed up with good ideas; take blue eyes as long as they're sincere. In the future, I'm staying away from politicians with nice smiles—unless of course, I really like what they're saying.



better. PM Paul Martin proceeded to lose public confidence faster than P Diddy could proclaim "vote or die." So where does that decade of drudgery leave us? Stephen Harper is indeed a fresh face, but he's got as much appeal as a child molester. His candor with the press doesn't help his public relations either. He appears uptight, stubborn and inflexible. He's distant at best, abrasive at worst. But what's the alternative?

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Hussein’s conviction leaves much justice to be desired



JACKIE
AMBLER

There are two words that don’t get said nearly often enough in our society. Okay, there are more than two—but the ones I had in mind were “thank you.” With that in mind, I’d like to give our neighbours down south some love.

Once again, American Democracy has catalyzed the triumph of Good Stuff over various unnamed forces which will hereafter be denoted simply as Evil. Sure, maybe people saw it coming. Nonetheless, the evidence is in, and the results are heart-stirring. I’m not referring to the results of the recent mid-term elections, however, but a decision that some view as more important to the survival of the American Way: the sentencing of (former) Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to death on 6 November for crimes against humanity—specifically, for the wholesale slaughter of the residents of the Shiite village Dujail in 1982. The score now stands thus: Non-freedom, a really large number; Freedom, a really large number plus one.

In all seriousness, though, not nearly enough media attention has been given to the consequences of this development for a war now three years in the making, and getting longer (and costlier) by the day. It’s safe to say, however, that despite White House press secretary Tony Snow’s pronouncement that “this is a good day for the Iraqi people,” Hussein’s assassination probably isn’t going to help. The reason for this is simple: many Iraqi insurgents don’t place themselves in this “happy”

camp. Some critics believe that Saddam’s execution, although not yet fixed, will simply turn him into a martyr in the Anti-American cause and galvanize the faction that remains loyal to his regime. It’s therefore doubtful that this reasoning is what prompted the Americans to push so hard for Hussein’s conviction, which has many pointing to the timely conviction as a belated “October surprise” designed to swing the election in the Republicans’ favour—an attempt that has clearly failed.

The American intervention in the Hussein trial is unwarranted, and its accused judicial rights violations are depressing and hypocritical given that the US so adamantly professes to be a global supporter of them.

To claim that the team of American trial lawyers who’ve been working out of the country’s embassy in Iraq are supposedly stationed there in order to hold up the trial’s judicial neutrality would be a flimsy excuse, even if this was in fact happening. But according to Human Rights Watch, it isn’t. The agency, after monitoring the trial and the treatment of its participants, has stated that the court has omitted elements of the trial that were designed specifically to ensure this neutrality—elements such as standards of proof, the ability of the defence lawyers to consult with their client, inadequate protection against self-crimination

and incomplete transcripts of the proceedings. These may seem like meaningless technicalities in the trial of a man whom virtually all Western people believe to be guilty. But if his guilt has already been determined, why are the Americans there in the first place?

The American intervention in the Hussein trial is unwarranted, and its accused judicial rights violations are depressing and hypocritical given that the US so adamantly professes to be a global supporter of them. They have remained, from the proposal of the idea until the present day, the world’s most outspoken advocate of the International Criminal Court, an independent, international judicial body supported by 103 countries across the globe. It exists to try war criminals collectively, and, hypothetically, act to maintain the judicial standards under which this occurs.

The American justification of this opposition has always been that it interferes with the sovereignty of nations, and, less fundamentally, the ability of those affected by war criminals to hold them directly accountable. And yet, this is exactly what their interference has denied the Iraqi people: a trial that could have provided at least some semblance of closure for victims of the Hussein regime has been converted into what Columbia University law professor Scott Horton says Baghdad residents refer to as an “American puppet theatre.”

The reasons behind this interference will probably be forgotten by history. But the trial’s legacy will be remembered not as a “triumph of freedom,” but as another stain in the record book of American foreign policy. So, thanks again to the Bush Administration. We can always use a reminder that, often, no amount of Good Stuff can negate the temptations of duplicity.

A bit of war crime never hurt anyone



CONAL
PIERSE

I promised myself that I wouldn’t write about politics anymore. I find the topic abhorrent, and politicians as a whole repulse me (though I would be willing to choke down the bile for a chance to bone Michaëlle Jean). However, this latest story put the vinegar in my blood, and I am compelled to share it with you.

Recently a group of human rights activists filed a suit asking German prosecutors to charge former secretary of state Donald Rumsfeld with war crimes for his alleged role in abuse at Iraq’s Abu Ghraib prison and Guantanamo Bay. The suit is being filed under German law, which allows for the prosecution of war criminals regardless of where the crimes were committed, and has the added bonus of not being laughed out of an American court. I know plenty of you out there are thinking, “So what? Nothing’s going to happen,” right about now, but we can’t afford to give

the Germans any leeway. You know what they say: if you give the Germans an inch, they’ll invade Poland.

Just where do these human rights activists get off, attempting to charge a world leader with war crimes and then parading them around in a public spectacle with a foregone conclusion in what would be a complete mockery of the justice system anywhere else? When will you learn Germany? We’re the ones who charge you with war crimes, not the other way round. If other countries like you start trying to police the world, it will only encourage fish-out-of-water buddy-cop films—and nobody wants that.

Really though, what’s with all the hubub over Rumsfeld? I mean, sure he *might* have known about the mistreatment of prisoners, and he *may* have condoned such behaviour, but what’s the big deal? Just because you aren’t the man who *invented* rape-rooms doesn’t mean you can’t capitalize on

the idea. Correct me if I’m wrong, but I’m pretty sure these people were all terrorists, each one more deviant than the last. If it weren’t for Rumsfeld’s big brass balls, who knows what these people might have done? Sure, many of them might not have committed any crimes yet, but that doesn’t mean they weren’t going to eventually. It’s called preventative measures, people: his actions were simply the proverbial condom a high-school jock wears to prevent an unwanted pregnancy (ie terrorism) that would prevent him from taking advantage of a full scholarship to UCLA (which I guess can stand for oil, or something).

The fact of the matter is that innocent people never go to jail, and in the rare case that they do it’s up to their brother to come up with an elaborate scheme to break them out. If anybody should be catching flack for this it’s those lazy do-nothing siblings. For shame little brothers. For shame.

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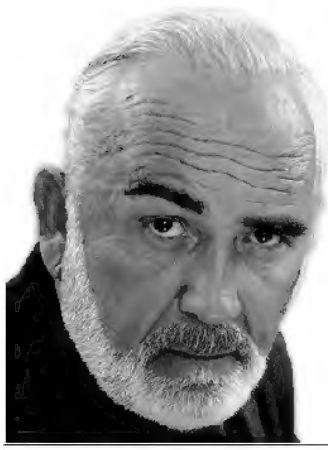
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CHRIS
CONNELLY

Since I see no legal possibility of putting a swift end to this “oppressive” force through the democratic process of general elections, I will gladly sell my soul to the Progressive Conservative party for \$5. Despite the fact that I will now be receiving endless mail-outs concerning the party’s many upcoming events and decisions in the works (all of which will be asking for money in some way, shape, or form), I am willing to

Unscrupulous? Yes. Unprincipled? Not a chance. This decision is based upon one of the few real principles we have left in this world: the democratic process. The fact is that we already knew democracy came with a price tag. I'm going to pitch in a crinkled up representation of Wilf Laurier while I have the chance to make an important political decision—and you all should too. Be you anarcho-sindicalists, yuppies, neo-Nazis, or just plain old rednecks, you all have the relatively inexpensive option of exercising your franchise.

The democratic deficit in this province is appalling. What's worse is the absence of any real response to dissension in the direction of the current government: the best we've seen so far came at the mercy of an innocent schoolgirl, who was hit with a 78-page Liberal handbook on health care thrown by Klein himself.

You can vote for someone who may actually change the party for the better (paying attention to postsecondary education, health care and the environment), someone who will ensure you get another round of prosperity cheques (these ones actually can go to beer and popcorn), or someone so terrible that they couldn't possibly be re-elected as premier. No matter which way you go, you're going home happy. So buy one less \$5 highball while cruising down Whyte this weekend, and buy a PC membership instead. Five dollars for truly direct democracy is money well spent—even if you have to leave your ethics at home.

Buying into another party means selling your political soul



ADAM
GAUMONT

The rationale for buying a PC membership even if you don't support the party goes something like this: you may not be capital-C Conservative, but if you want to have a say in who will be the leader of this province, then realistically you should just vote for the party leader, because we all know that the PCs will be in power. But while Klein and co may well rule the roost for years to come, the rest of the argument just doesn't hold water.

If you don't align yourself politically with that party, then just stay away and let them do their thing. Or, if you happen to find one or more of the candidates particularly appealing (Lyle Oberg is kind of dreamy, you have to admit), then perhaps you should reconsider your position on the political gamut.

Call me a young, libertarian idealist, but this is simply a matter of principle. I believe that one simply ought not to vote for something that one does not believe in. To argue that voting for

But calling for political change in our province, as hackneyed as it sounds, is not the point either. The point is that, regardless of who's in power, you should stick to your principles and vote for the party you believe in. After all, minor personal platforms aside, the ideological differences between candidates within the any party is negligible. The slide from realism to cynicism and finally to apathy, however, is much more noticeable.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION:

InfoLink: Academic and Information Services Information Consultant

>> InfoLink exists to provide students at the University of Alberta with tools and information that will assist them to become effective stewards of their own academic and non-academic careers.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The main focus of the Information Consultant will be to handle all walk-up, telephone, and email inquiries. They will utilize service resources to provide students with the information they need to be successful on and off campus.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Students from all faculties are encouraged to apply!

>> **Must be available for Training: 9:00 am-5:00 pm on January 4th and 5th.**

Interviews will be held at the end of November to beginning of December.

RENUMERATION: \$7.56/h for first 40 hours; \$9.80 thereafter.

Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume by Monday November 27 at 4:30pm to:

>> **Johanna Comartin**
InfoLink: Academic and Information Services Manager
Suite 0-26 SUB
8900-114 Street
T6G 2J7
Johanna.comartin@su.ualberta.ca
Fax: (780) 492-7267

InfoLink thanks you for your application, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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STEFFIROSKOPF

A NEW GENERATION OF THE RIGHT

As Alberta prepares to elect a new leader of the Conservative Party, **MATT FREHNER** evaluates the policies often left behind, while candidates try to win our hearts in the province’s hottest contest

IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE Conservative government is going to be defined by how creatively it chooses to deal with Alberta’s prosperity. How “progressive”-minded the PCs are will determine whether they go on to be Alberta’s longest-reigning party, or whether Albertans vote for one of their once-in-a-quarter-century political upheavals. With no debt and a bulging surplus, social rather than fiscal issues should be at the forefront of Conservative members’ minds when they head to the ballot box 25 November. Each candidate seems to be lamenting Klein’s absurd lack of vision; it’s time to stop stuffing cash into programs on a whim until we burn up all the oil. What follows is not a comprehensive overview of each candidate’s platform, by any means. It’s my take on some of the issues that are often overlooked in an Alberta focused on oil, the economy and their effects.

The Arts

Arts and culture in Alberta are badly under-funded. Last year’s \$2 million increase, to \$22.6 million, for the budget of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts—the group in charge of funding all arts groups in Alberta, from theatre to music to visual arts—was effectively the first since the AFA’s inception in ’91. Without going into the math, funding for the arts in Alberta hasn’t changed in 15 years, meaning barely any money for new groups, and less money all around, even for the most established companies. This isn’t the way to build a vibrant arts community.

A little over a week ago, CBC aired an all-who-decided-to-show-up-candidates’ forum on the state of arts and culture in Alberta. The rhetoric was typical of any forum heavily attended by those directly affected by the issue: lots of cash was promised, new programs were designed on the spot, ministerial reform was pledged. Forgive me for being skeptical, but honestly Mr Hancock, are you really going to be able to push \$60 million for the AFA through the Legislature, as needed as those funds may be? What Hancock had on his side, though, was his understanding that creating a thriving arts community in Alberta can come simply through more money for the AFA. Those who talked of creating whole new advisory boards, or reworking the way funding was distributed entirely (like Lyle Oberg’s cash-matching system, which would force arts organizations to fundraise half their budgets—a daunting task for all but the most successful and widely known groups) fail to realize that the cash-strapped AFA works quite well in principle.

Jim Dinning, for his part, pledged to raise AFA funding to \$40 million as well as create a council for the arts that

would advise the Legislature and also lobby the private sector for funding. Though less ambitious than Hancock, Dinning’s proposals are slightly more realistic, and given his pull with current MLAs, he holds a better chance of passing his reforms. Aside from Oberg’s proposal, which has some merit, the rest of the candidates were virtually carbon copies of each other, espousing vague platitudes about the need for arts education to keep kids away from drugs, and the value of culture in our province—we don’t need to be placated, guys, we just need an actual plan.

Ted Morton and Victor Doerksen were suspiciously absent, though Ted has recently conveyed his love for the arts in a different (albeit unconventional) way. Two days ago, his campaign—which supporters call the “Ted Morton Freedom Train”—released its so-called secret weapon, his campaign song. Entitled “Ted Morton is the Man,” the third stanza goes: “He’s Albertan by choice / Now he’s running for premier / He’ll guard our future / And all that we hold dear.” Forgive me if I’m not reassured.

Unlike the rest of Canada, where provincial elections actually matter, here in Alberta, the real democratic choice comes this weekend. With only about 40 000 members registered, the candidates’ clichéd pleas are accurate: every vote does carry weight.

Postsecondary education

With two consecutive tuition rebates, a lengthy PSE review and the deregulation of tuition policy, we in the post-secondary world have been shown a lot of busy work, with few substantive results. The recently released and entirely underwhelming tuition policy aside, Albertans are in need of some concrete policies that address the needs of rural and low-income families, while at the same time increasing the actual quality of education.

For all his detailed policy work in other fields, Jim Dinning really shat the bed on postsecondary when he supported the work of current Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard, a man whose lack of vision is matched only by his penchant for vague metaphors. That Dinning “trusts” Herard’s “solemn promise” to consult with students doesn’t bode well, considering Herard’s penchant for avoiding students whenever possible. Dinning’s discussions with the *Gateway* about PSE suggest a compelling lack of interest in the issues—unfortunate for an otherwise decent candidate.

Hancock, meanwhile, is like a pig in shit when it comes to PSE; it was his ministerial baby, after all. That he “happened” to be absent for the vote on Bill 40, the vote that deregulated

tuition policy, shows respect for the democratic system. As well, Hancock has laid out some sweeping suggestions for postsecondary, from a free first year of tuition to education tax credits for graduates.

Oberg and Norris are also opposed to Bill 40, but other than that, their positions differ widely. Where Norris finds the nearly 30 per cent that students pay towards their education as a formidable financial barrier, and suggests the government aim for a goal of ten per cent, Oberg (and Doerksen) feel the current rate is quite reasonable. Granted, there’s more to accessible postsecondary than tuition fees, but simply massaging the student loan framework, as both Oberg and Doerksen suggest, does little to address the problem of already-insurmountable debt loads, or access for rural families. To Gary McPherson’s credit, distance learning through increased technological support is one of his few solid points in a sea of vague discussion and sarcastic commentary.

Meanwhile, the sum of Morton’s policy involves redistributing the Centennial Scholarships that Klein

introduced so that they benefit the Albertan economy alone—expressly counter to the good-will gesture Klein intended. Not much of a peep on anything else, aside from his support for Bill 40 and the recent linking of tuition-fee increases to the consumer price index, which is disappointing, considering his long history as a U of C professor.

Health care

Ed Stelmach, who has difficulty standing out from the pack on almost every issue, actually succeeds in taking a principled stand on health care. Opposed to splitting the system into public and private-pay branches, he’s looking to streamline the system (easy to say, hard to do), and also tie research done in Alberta to projects at Alberta hospitals—which might conceivably bring economic and health benefits, without draining the system further. Unfortunately, as with all of Stelmach’s proposals, he may mean well, but he fails to back up his discussion with any substance. Private health care is perhaps the most explosive issue on the table, and with years of arguing the effectiveness of private versus public systems, it’s difficult to know what kind of proposals are realistic. Hancock is in line with

Stelmach here, pushing for similarly vague “new and innovative thinking.” Morton takes the opposite, pragmatic approach with his belief that long wait times can best be addressed through a private system, which he asserts allows Albertans “the freedom to choose and pay for the health care they need and want”—freedom, that is, as long as you have the cash in hand.

Perhaps the most passionate advocate of public health, though, is Dr Oberg. The plan he outlines puts others’ to shame, with its attention to detail and achievability, its focus on preventative measures, and inclusion of a private health-insurance system balanced by assurances that the public end will not suffer.

Social issues

A few months back, the federal Conservatives unveiled a proposed Defense of Religions Act, which would stymie the ability of gay couples to seek marriage licences from justices of the peace, along with allegedly allowing certain anti-gay comments to be made by religious groups without violating hate-crime law. This policy was based on a private member’s bill (Bill 208) proposed by Ted Morton this spring. Certainly principled in his stance on social issues, especially those commingled with religion, Morton has gained a fair amount of his support from social conservatives who share his views. However, being an Albertan Tory doesn’t necessitate social conservatism, especially with such a range of candidates struggling for recognition. Unfortunately, it’s difficult to see where the rest fall on social issues, including gay rights.

Unlike the rest of Canada, where provincial elections actually matter, here in Alberta, the real democratic choice comes this weekend. With only about 40 000 members registered, the candidates’ clichéd pleas are accurate: every vote does carry weight. As much as owning a Conservative membership may be vomit-inducing for those of other political stripes, the time to effect political change comes in choosing a leader for Alberta, rather than casting a wasted vote come general-election time. And since it’s only \$5, you won’t even feel that guilty ripping up the card once you’ve checked that box—just wait until after the second ballot.

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My ballot, if it were a preferential vote, which it isn’t:

1. Hancock
2. Norris
3. Dinning
4. Oberg
5. None of the Above
6. The rest—all either frighteningly dull, terrifying in their social conservatism or plain incompetent.